

Pam Linklater (center) cuts the ribbon to Selkirk's fifth annual Mother's Day Run / Walk on Sunday at the Waterfront. See story pg. 2.

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Mother's Day Run/Walk

By Austin Grabish

Moms were honoured and money was raised for three great community causes during the fifth annual Mother's Day Run / Walk on Sunday.

A small, but motivated group of people braved Sunday's gloomy weather and either walked or ran down Eveline Street before making their way back to the Waterfront.

Pam Linklater, a Second World War veteran, was the Queen Mother for the walk.

Linklater, 94, had the honour of cutting the ribbon before participants took off.

Linklater was unable to walk down Eveline, but made a brief stroll at the Waterfront with her walker.

She said its great moms are honoured at the walk.

"That's a good idea," she said.

Coun. Darlene Swiderski was impressed with the older participants who came out to the walk.

"I think it's just wonderful especially when you see the 90 and 100 year-olds walking," Swiderski said.

Swiderski is the executive director of Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation, one of three organizations that will receive proceeds from Sunday's event.

Swiderski said any funds the Corporation receives will be allocated to grants community organizations can apply for, and money will also go towards grants homeowners can apply for when they are fixing up the exterior of their homes.

"All of the money we get goes back to the community," Swiderski said.

Funds raised were also going to the new Kirstin Sutherland Fund.

Sutherland died in a car accident last year, and the fund is meant to honour her memory. She was 27.

Funds from Sunday were also going towards the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund. Nicol was a Selkirk resident who passed away suddenly at the age of 25.

He was passionate about helping people living with intellectual disabilities and the fund is also meant to honour and keep his spirit alive.

About two-dozen people either walked or ran on Sunday.

Organizer Linda Rosser said the number of participants fluctuates every year, but this year numbers were really low.

"It's an up and down thing."

Rosser said plans are already in the works to make next year's event bigger and better.

She said the Running Room will be on site to make the event more official and a pancake breakfast will return to the Walk / Run next year.

"We're going to bring that back big time," Rosser said.

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Rally opposes Vince Li's move to group home

By Austin Grabish

With an eagle feather in hand, Carol de Delley vehemently denounced the Manitoba Criminal Code Review Board's decision to allow the man who beheaded and cannibalized her son to move to a Winnipeg group home.

And the voices of dozens of outraged protesters echoed that call during the Justice for Tim McLean Rally Saturday at the Manitoba Legislature.

De Delley received a letter last Friday telling her Vince Li had been granted the right to move from a hospital to a group home.

"Just in time for Mother's Day," de Delley told the *Record*.

Li was found to be not criminally responsible for murdering de Delley's son, because he was mentally ill at the time of the unprecedented 2008 killing.

Li had stabbed McLean repeatedly before dismembering and eating his body parts in front of passengers on a Greyhound bus.

De Delley said she has feared Li's release from hospital for years.

"It was not a secret that this was going to be the result," de Delley said.

"It hasn't come as a surprise, but it doesn't make me feel any better than it did six years ago knowing that it was looming."

De Delley questioned what would happen if Li decided to not take medication that controls his schizophrenia once released.

"It's indicative of the illness to feel better and decide that you don't need the medication anymore," de Delley said.

Li has spent the last seven years in a locked ward at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre, but has gradually gained freedoms over the years including the right to unsupervised trips in the community and most recently to transition to the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. It wasn't known at press time if Li had made the move or if he was still in Selkirk.

One protester yelled the Justice system should have to re-evaluate Li.

"He admitted he was guilty, he's done wrong, send him to court," the man said.

Manitoba Schizophrenia Society executive director Chris Summerville said Saturday's rally was based on ungrounded fears.

"In the seven years that he's been at Selkirk Mental Health Centre there have been no altercations with other patients, he's been very compliant with medication," Summerville said in a phone interview Saturday.

"He has undergone rigorous testing psychologically and psychiatrically to determine his readiness to live in the community."

Summerville added Li is sorry for his actions.

"He remembers it and never wants it to happen again, and consequently is self-motivated to take the medication," Summerville said.

But de Delley questions if Li can handle the responsibility of taking his medication.

"I don't think that should be his choice anymore. I think he should have lost the right to make that decision," de Delley said.

Summerville said Li's release to a group home has several conditions attached to it, which includes mandatory medication and visits with a psychiatrist.

"There is a page full of conditions which he must meet if he wants to stay in community and not move back to Selkirk Mental Health Centre," Summerville said.

And the move to the group home won't happen over night. The letter de Delley received from the Review Board suggested overnight passes to the home for the purpose of a gradual



RECORD PHOTOS BY AUSTIN GRABISH

Carol de Delley spoke against Vince Li's granted right to move to a group home. Li beheaded her son Tim McLean in 2008.



Protesters held signs decrying the Manitoba Criminal Code Review Board's decision to allow Vince Li the right to move to a Winnipeg group home.

transition would happen first.

De Delley said she fears future freedoms Li could receive after making the move to a group home.

"It's got to stop. It's got to stop someplace," she said.



Fresh water will continue to flow for beach residents

St. Clements council takes over the formerly private artesian well

By Laura Tutlies

The artesian well at Beaconia has been providing a source of drinking water for East Beaches for many, many years. It runs constantly (as do artesian wells) since it was first tapped. However, back in September of 2014 the RM of St. Clements realized its responsibility for the quality of the water from this popular liquid reservoir.

"We were informed that the well is not an approved public water source under the Manitoba Drinking Water act," said D.J. Sigmundson, the chief administratibe officer (CAO) for the RM of St. Clements.

The result was that a public water source, needed to be registered and to include regular testing and contamination protection to be in place. In September, last year the well at the Beaconia site did not meet those requirements. The RM of St. Clements since then has been taking measures to acquire the well and to insure the quality of the drinking water from the well.

"The office of Drinking Water has reviewed water sampling analysis and the results from the workshop show a favorable water quality, (with) more testing to be completed at this time," the report stated.

As of May 15 the RM will take over the site and the landmark place of 'really good drinking water' will be officially regulated and sanctioned as a safe site for drinking water.

The Beaconia well has a history for cottagers and residents of East Beaches as one of the best places to acquire drinking water for weekend forays to the cottage. As in the past, donations will be gratefully accepted from those using the well. Proceeds will then be passed on to the local fire department. Many local residents also use the site



RECORD PHOTO BY LAURA TUTLIES Cole Scobbie tests the water of Beaconia's popular artesian well.

when their own well proved 'not so great' for drinking water.

Many users appreciate the quality of the water from this artesian source and often take buckets back to the city for personal use as drinking water. Now that the RM has taken the challenge in hand, those using this natural water source can be assured that it is safe and fully tested to be free of contamination.



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Sharing the stage with a superstar

By Austin Grabish

Former Selkirk resident Paula Jehle-Turner has made a name for herself as a top-notch celebrity hair and makeup artist, and if any proof of that was needed, country superstar Luke Bryan gave it last Thursday.

Bryan called Jehle-Turner up on stage and gave Selkirk a big country shout out.

"He's like, 'I'm bringing you up on stage', and he did," Jehle-Turner said.

Jehle-Turner was at Bryan's Wednesday night show with family when Bryan told her he'd be pulling her up to the stage.

Jehle-Turner lives in Nashville, Tenn. and has worked for Bryan for the last seven years.

She happened to be back in Selkirk last week visiting family so she took them to his two sold-out shows, and gave them a special backstage tour.

Jehle-Turner is a freelance hair and makeup artist whose clients include big artists like ZZ Top, George Jones, Tim McGraw, Kenny Rogers and Kenney Chesney to name a few.

But "Luke Bryan's probably my biggest client," Jehle-Turner said.

Jehle-Turner preps clients for concerts, television shows, photo shoots, and red carpet walks.

She drifted off from Selkirk to Tennessee when she was in her early 20s, and has worked with celebrities for the better part of two decades.

Her first 'big' client was country artist Jolie & the Wanted. "That was my first big break," Jehle-Turner said.

Jehle-Turner is a Comp grad, but wasn't part of the school's hairstyling program. Instead, she pursued her hair and makeup learning at a school in Winnipeg after she graduated high school.

"I look back now and think, 'jeez I don't know why I didn't do that',"Jehle-Turner said.

She says she had a rough start in the industry, but after a few years made a name for herself.

She did it by working for American photographers for free in exchange for the opportunity to build her portfolio.

"I had a book in Winnipeg, but it was never big enough to take to the record labels in Nashville," Jehle-Turner explained.

"I didn't have an agent or anything like that, I just beat the pavement knocking on doors to different record labels."

She credits her success in part to the relationships she's been able to build with clients.

She said trust is a big part of the job and is what someone in her field needs to keep a client.

"You're in their private space, you're in their face literally," Jehle-Turner said.

"I don't have to show a book anymore. Thankfully I'm at a place where they just know my work by my clients."

Infant in CFS care dies

By Austin Grabish

A four-month-old girl who was in the care of Child and Family Services has died, but RCMP said the baby's death is not suspicious.

Powerview RCMP responded to a call of a non-responsive infant on the Little Black River First Nation at approximately 6:30 p.m. last Monday.

The baby girl was taken to the Selkirk General Hospital where she was

pronounced dead.

Chief Derrick Henderson told CBC the baby was in the care of Sagkeeng Child Family Services.

RCMP said an investigation under the Fatality Inquiries Act was launched, but police involvement in the matter has ended and the death is not being treated as suspicious.

The Chief Medical Examiner is investigating the death.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Former Selkirk resident Paula Jehle-Turner was overjoyed as she got an on-stage shout-out from country superstar Luke Bryan.







BOSS program leader Wayne Davies in line to receive Distinguished Alumni Award

By Stefanie Lasuik

Wayne Davies has rock n' rolled his way to yet another award. After being named one of the country's top 40 principals, Davies is set to receive a distinguished alumni award from the University of Manitoba for outstanding community service.

The now Interlake School Division assistant superintendent has earned the award on behalf of the BOSS – an acronym for Building on Student Success-Guitar Works program, an initiative he began when he was principal at École Selkirk Junior High. The

program grew out of an idea Davies had when he read an article about Rush, who donated what he believed to be a guitar but what turned out as \$100,000 to the Human Rights Museum.

Teacher Kris Hancock had mentioned building guitars at school in his job interview for ESJH, and teacher Scott Sampson could provide finishing for the guitars, so together the three spearheaded a program in which students designed, built, played and auctioned off guitars while raising funds for the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. They would collect

> celebrity signatures for the guitars before auction. The goal was to sell three guitars and make \$1,000 for the CMHR.

But the initiative blew up.

Two galas and \$176,000 later, the BOSS program

changed lives of its donor recipients as well as its participants. \$101,000 went to the CMHR, \$100,000 to match Rush's donation and \$1,000 as their initial goal. The remaining \$75,000 was distributed to 60 other various charities.

Davies saw the entire student body



<image>

Wayne Davies stands with guitar given to him by ESJH upon his departure from the school. Davies is one of five recipients of this year's Distinguished Alumni awards.

get on board with BOSS. Kids who weren't making guitars were designing centrepieces, creating banners, serving dinner, or singing with the school's choir.

"They were all in. Everybody was in," Davies said.

The program generated a new sense of identity and self-esteem within the school, which spread into the wider community. All it took was an idea that united coolness with philanthropy. Davies noted that students liked BOSS because it was cool, but as they get older, they'll realize the significance and impact of what they did. Davies said that these kids, in turn, would inspire their future kids to hold positive attitudes toward school. The plaque may bear his name, but for Davies, the award is a communal one. He said that the title "Community Service" denotes a shared effort by a team of people.

"Anything where I've gotten to be part of the bigger picture, to me, is what this (award) represents and it represents a lot of really cool efforts by a lot of great people," he explained, noting that he felt confused and conflicted at the prospect of receiving this individual award.

Davies reported telling U of M Chancellor, Harvey Secter, that he would need a bigger stage.

"I'll figuratively have every kid, every adult that I've been lucky enough to work with on that stage with me."



"THEY WERE ALL IN. EVERYBODY WAS IN." Two \$176.0

New signs to tell Selkirk's history



RECORD PHOTO BY MICHELLE BALHARRY From left to right, City of Selkirk CAO Duane Nicol with marketing and communications co-ordinator Vanessa Figus, Selkirk Heritage Committee chair Doreen Oliver, and member Peter Hall.

By Austin Grabish

The City of Selkirk and the Selkirk Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee are hoping new signs at Selkirk's Waterfront will teach folks a lesson or two about the City's rich history.

Three stories are now on display on permanent plaques at the Waterfront, and each plaque tells a story that is considered pivotal to Selkirk's history. The stories are about boats, the old

fishing industry, and politics surrounding Selkirk's famous lift bridge. "We threw around some ideas, dif-

ferent stories within the City that we thought would be of importance,"said City of Selkirk marketing and communications co-ordinator Vanessa Figus.

Figus said the signs were placed strategically at the Waterfront so people can see what the area used to look like.

She said the Waterfront had great stories to tell, because it was booming with the fishing and boating industries, and credited both with making Selkirk what it is today.

"That was sort of the main hub, and that's what built Selkirk," Figus said.

Doreen Oliver, chair of the Heritage Committee, said she believes the signs will bring people back in time to the Waterfront's earlier days, a press release said.

Figus agreed.

"The signs take you back in history, because that particular area of Selkirk was a different time years ago. It was very busy, it was a hustle and bustle, there were hundreds of people working in the fisheries, logging, working on the boats, doing all kinds of things," Figus said.

But University of Manitoba native

studies Prof. Niigaan Sinclair said there's much more to Selkirk's history, and it's problematic to give a history lesson about a place without acknowledging the land's original inhabitants.

"To erase that is to completely ignore the true history of the area," Sinclair said.

He said aboriginal people used land in and around what is now Selkirk for hundreds, if not thousands of years, before any commercial fishing or boating industries were started.

"There is no history in Selkirk without aboriginal people," Sinclair said.

He said the community of St. Peters, which was in the Selkirk area, was a thriving place used for hunting and fishing, and it was also top-notch agriculture territory long before any European settlers arrived.

"The area now known as Selkirk was a landing space for dozens of First Nations communities throughout the north from Norway House to Oxford House to Sagkeeng," Sinclair said.

He noted the aboriginal peoples living around Selkirk were booted off their land in 1907 and sent to Peguis to live on scrubland that has continued to flood regularly.

The illegal eviction was settled in 2010 resulting in \$118-million going to the Peguis band as compensation.

The historic settlement is one of Canada's largest single land claims.

Figus said the City doesn't have immediate plans in place to include a fourth display on any kind of aboriginal history, but noted the goal is to eventually have more displays around Selkirk that will tell other stories.



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Set RED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG Happy opening fishing week! **MARKETING & PROMOTIONS** Brett Mitchell

By Arnie Weidl Hi friends, thanks for stopping and spending a little time with me.

Wasn't it amazing how our riverbanks and lakes came alive with our fellow anglers last Saturday? Everywhere I went folks were lined up side-by-side along the banks or out in their boats enjoying the day as they fished and yes every once in a while got their hooks snagged. Even in the sun filled but cold bracing windy day there was an air of vigorous anticipation.

I felt I wanted to start this summers's fishing stories with folks at the Pine Falls boat launch pier on the Winnipeg River. I made my way over there on the first day of fishing, driving along the beautiful meandering Highway 12. The early spring sights of the light green spruces offset by the chalky white birches with their tiny milky green leaves lining either side of the road gave promise of the coming warm summer.

Coming up to the pier's parking lot, there had to be 30 truck-trailer rigs; their owners gone with their boats out onto the river. On the pier with the cool pressing wind coming off the river, I joked around with some of the anglers when one fellow Chris Eangan from Winnipeg caught and landed a very nice pickerel which he held up so I could take a picture for us.

Later, I made my way back to Selkirk where I had a feeling it was time to visit with the folks right on the main pier in town. It was packed with anglers and I found myself having a whale of a time laughing and fooling around with new fishing friends and meeting those we've gotten to know before.

Walking along the line of fishers, I came up to a couple, Aureo and Carmelita Bonio from Winnipeg just as Carmelita hauled in a drum. When I asked her to hold it up for me to take a picture, she tried to hold it with both hands around its middle but it wiggled so much and was so slippery, coupled with our fits of laughter, she couldn't hang onto it!

I finished the day by running to Winnipeg Beach to see if there were a lot of anglers in for the spring bass run. What I came across was an unexpected unbelievably funny story. I met Colin Huston, a commercial fisher from Gimli who was with a bunch of friends by the Beach Harbor. Colin is also a committed sports angler and as he along with a buddy fished, he gave this unusual story.

Last summer when he went out on the lake east of Gimli to lift his nets he saw that a pelican had been caught by the feet in one of them. Now it was only natural that he wanted to free the bird but as he got closer, he realized pelicans are really very large birds! Colin decided caution and a little planning were in order. He slowly maneuvered his rocking boat sideways up to the giant white



RECORD PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL Chris Eangan of Winnipeg with a pickerel he caught at the Pine Falls pier.

wing-flapping beast. Then with hunched shoulders to protect his head he leaned over the side of the boat and began trying to free the birds' feet which were almost the size of his hands. He tried to cut the net with his knife when suddenly the bird's wings that were spread above him fell away and Colin felt shock as the bird's huge beak clamped onto his neck! By reflex Colin grabbed the pelican's neck. Colin didn't know whether to laugh or scream at this ridiculous situation. The power of the thing was frightening. Still, with one hand around the birds' neck he tore at the net with the knife and miraculously the giant's feet came free.

Sensing freedom the pelican let go of Colin's' neck and attempted flight when Colin returned the favor by releasing his grip. Soon, the bird gained air for a short distance then plopped back into the water chattering, wagging its floppy beaked head and swimming away.

Colin responded with a fitting parting gesture of their brief encounter by giving the bird "the finger"! Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction isn't it?

Well, if you've gotten out for some good fishing, great, and if you enjoyed our stories for this week; even better! Bye for now.

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Walk for Kids to honour Kirstin Sutherland

By Austin Grabish

It's being called Kirstin's Walk for Kids, but the five-kilometre walk will be for all ages, and organizers hope everyone will make it out to honour a late St. Clements woman who was taken from the world too soon.

Kirstin Sutherland was 27 when she was killed in a Selkirk car crash last September, and now her friends and family are hoping to keep her spirit alive by putting on the first annual Kirstin's Walk for Kids.

The event takes place June 14 at Selkirk Park and will raise money for a legacy fund that has been started in her name through the Selkirk and District Community Foundation.

Sutherland had a love for children and was working for River Crest Daycare when she was killed.

Her friends and family remember her as outgoing and loving, and her obituary said she was "like a shooting star," because her eyes and spirit could light up a room.

"She always liked to have fun, so naturally she gravitated towards children. She would play, be silly, take care of them and most of all, laugh with them," said Jamie Kreviazuk, a friend, in an email.

Kreviazuk said the walk next month will be a great way to remember Sutherland who "has been and remains the glue that keeps us together."

"This walk is important to us because we miss her," Kreviazuk said.

Rick Sutherland, Kirstin's dad, said the idea to have a walk came after discussions with friends and family.

"We were all sitting around one day and wondering what we could do to honour her," he said emotionally during an interview with the *Record*.

"We kind of just put our heads together," he said. Next month's walk will take participants on a five kilometre stroll around the perimeter of Selkirk Park.



Rick Sutherland said musical entertainment and children's activities will also be part of the day.

Sutherland said the hope is to have 300 people come out to the walk.

All of the money raised will go to the Kirstin Sutherland Legacy Fund, and once it hits \$10,000, money will be dispersed to various children's groups and daycares.

Registration costs \$20 and can be done in advance online at www.runningroom.com under the 'events' section of the website.

Anyone needing more information can call Kreviazuk at 204-785-0468.

RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kirstin Sutherland died in a car accident last September. She was 27 at the time of the accident.



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Blooms and more at annual plant sale

By Claire McCaffrey

Twenty years of gardening will be celebrated at the Selkirk and District Horticultural Society's annual plant sale later this month.

For the 20th year, the Horticultural Society will put on an annual plant sale, and proceeds raised from the sale will help the community flourish. Succulents, annuals, perennials, vegetables, houseplants and shrubs that have been cared for by the Horticultural Society will all be on display and available for purchase at the sale.

The plants are guaranteed "Manitoba-hardy" since they've already been growing in the gardens of the Horticultural Society, according to organizer Pam Sitar.

For the past eight years, Elly Garrett has been in charge of organizing the sale, but this year she's passed the candle on to Sitar, a relatively new member of the society.

"Pam's got some newer ideas, good ideas, and there's lots of people mentoring her," Garrett said.

Sitar said she is excited to be bring-

ing new energy to the plant sale, and is looking forward to seeing it all come together.

Members of the Horticultural Society will be donating all the plants that will be for sale.

"There's been members that donate hundreds, and I'm talking like 400, 500,"Sitar said.

Sitar said its easy for Horticultural members to donate, because they have well-developed gardens with many plants to choose from.

But it won't just be plants that are for sale.

"At the sale, there will be a 50/50 draw, a silent auction, and new this year is what we're calling the Nearly New Table, where we are selling seeds and magazines among other things," Sitar said.

Money raised from the sale will be pay for a bench commemorating the Horticultural Society's 20th anniversary at Main Street and Schultz Avenue, in a garden the society cares for. Funds will also be put towards the maintenance costs associated with



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Selkirk and District Horticultural Society will have its Annual Plant Sale on May 29.

flowerbeds at the Selkirk General Hospital, and the remainder of proceeds will be placed in savings for palliative care gardens that will be made when the new hospital opens, Sitar said. The Selkirk and District Horticultural Society's annual plant sale takes place on May 29 from 6– 8 p.m. at Selkirk Memorial Hall.

The Hall is located at 368 Jemima Street.

Flea market, crafts, and food for kids in Ecuador

By Austin Grabish

Academy

They won't leave for Ecuador until next July, but 17 students at the Comp are already raising money to offset building costs associated with their humanitarian trip.

The students are putting on a vendor, craft, and flea market sale on June 13 at the high school. Students will be selling flea market items, hot dogs, cotton candy, and baking, and vendors from the community that sell products like Norwex are being invited to come out and set up a table at the sale.

The sale will be free for everyone to attend, and vendors who wish to set up a table will pay just \$15 if they sign

up before June 6. The cost rises to \$20 after that.

Teacher Greg Schettler who is helping to organize the sale said students are hoping lots of people will come out since the sale is a three-for-one type of deal. "We're just combining it all to meet more people's needs," Schettler said.

He said students are asking for donations of gently used clothing and toys that they can sell.

But the students don't want any junk drop-offs.

"What we like to say is high quality donations," Schettler said.

Money students raise from selling items will be put towards their trips, which have a price tag of roughly \$4,500 each, said teacher Matt Pearson.

Schettler said the school is letting students fundraise for their trips, because roughly 30 per cent of the trip's cost is actually for building supplies.

In previous years, when the Comp has taken students on humanitarian trips to Kenya and Nicaragua, students haven't been allowed to fundraise for the cost of their trips, but instead they

Setters Record office will be closed on May 18th

fundraised for Free The Children, the non-for-profit children's organization that builds schools, and wells in places like Africa.

Free The Children's social enterprise Me to We is the organization that takes the students overseas to volunteer in impoverished communities. The enterprise is whom students pay to go overseas, and half of the organization's profits are donated back to Free The Children.

Schettler said 100 per cent of proceeds raised from vendors' fees will go to Free The Children, and vendors keep all of the money they make from selling their products.

It isn't yet known what humanitarian project students will be taking part in next summer, but it could very well be building a school.

Comp students who went to Kenya with Free The Children in 2012 worked on building three schools, and students who went to Nicaragua last year also built a school.

Students will find out if they are building a school or digging wells in the final weeks leading up to their trip.

Anyone who wants to sign up as a vendor or donate items for the sale can reach Schettler at 204-803-9673.

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Last week was North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. Construction employees working on the new hospital in Selkirk watched as local firefighters practiced saving this fake construction worker, who had fallen off the side of the building during a safety drill last Wednesday.



RECORDS PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BALHARRY

The boys at Black Cat Blades in Selkirk were spreading the word about North American Occupational Safety and Health Week to their colleagues and families last week. (In no particular order) Black Cat health and safety co-ordinator Doug Eames, Tyler Mortimer, Len Prestige, Doug Thompson, and safety co-chair Darcy Gawryliuk.

Backcountry travel, burning permit restrictions lifted

News Release

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship advises that weather conditions have improved to the point that backcountry travel and burning permit restrictions have now been lifted in southeast, central and western Manitoba.

Some municipalities may continue to have burning restrictions in place. Be sure to check with local municipalities regarding any local restrictions.

Manitobans should always:

* get a burning permit where required before doing any burning,

* respect any burning bans put in

place by their municipality or community,

* be careful with any off-road travel by all-terrain vehicles or other motorized vehicles and stay on developed trails, and

* report any forest or grass fires immediately.

Reporting of wildfires can be done by contacting local emergency services at 911, or by contacting the forest fire tip line at 1-800-782-0076 (toll-free). More information on fire prevention and the latest list of municipalities with burn bans is available at www. gov.mb.ca/wildfire/.

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The need is real

By Austin Grabish

It had a slow start, but St. Francis Place Homeless Shelter has been anything but quiet the last six months.

The shelter, which opened its doors officially on Nov. 16, 2014, has given hundreds of people a warm and safe place to stay, and the demand doesn't seem to be going away.

Some of the shelter's clients have been transients passing through Selkirk on route to another city or town - others are parents with children who have lost their home and have no beds to sleep in.

"We have a mixed group of people that come in," said Raphael Dicosimo, a volunteer who has been instrumen-

tal in making the shelter's first few months a success.

Doors to the shelter open at 7 p.m. each day and registration is on a first-come first-serve basis.

Questions aren't asked when someone checks in at the shelter and the rules are simple for

adults: if there's an open bed you can stay the night.

Clients are given snacks and a continental breakfast before they leave the next day.

They also have the chance to take a shower and are given clean sheets and shampoo when they walk in the door.

There's also a washer and dryer for folks to use if needed.

But the shelter only has six beds, and there have been several nights where all have been full.

No one has had to be turned away yet, but René Gauthier, the shelter's founder, knows it could happen.

"It's a lottery type of thing," Gauthier said.

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Gauthier, who is also the executive director of Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, had been pushing to establish a homeless shelter in Selkirk for the better part of two years before November's opening.

He faced road blocks from a community with a severe case of NIMBY – Not In My Back Yard – and a council that was supportive, but reluctant to see the shelter open in the wrong location. Ultimately, council provided Gauthier with a building it eventually plans to demolish, and the shelter pays rents each month.

While Gauthier and those who worked with him to make it a reality knew there was a need for a shelter,

there wasn't a flood of takers when the doors finally did open. In fact, it sat empty for weeks.

"We did have a lull right at the beginning," Dicosimo said.

But Gauthier says he knew people would start pouring in once word got around, and by the end of December, six people had spent the night at St.

Francis Place.

That number doubled to 12 in January before growing to 60 in February, and now Gauthier pegs it at a few hundred.

Gauthier said once the shelter had its first client he knew there was a need for St. Francis Place in Selkirk.

"Once we had one person in here we said it was worth it," Gauthier said.

The clients that have slept at the shelter aren't whom Gauthier was expecting to see though.

"I expected the homeless to be the hardcore homeless, where they live on the street, like in Winnipeg," Gauthier said.

But instead the vast majority of the



RECORD PHOTO BY AUSTIN GRABISH

St. Francis Place Homeless Shelter founder René Gauthier (left) and shelter volunteers Raphael Dicosimo, and Carla Gauthier (right) have been kept busy the last six months at Selkirk's new homeless shelter.

folks who have used the shelter are people who have run into unexpected trouble, and the majority have been men.

Gauthier used an example of a man who was kicked out of his house for the night.

There have been a few regulars at St. Francis Place though, including a family.

Dicosimo said everyone is welcome at the shelter including addicts and alcoholics, and no one will be turned away providing there is adequate room.

"You shouldn't be criticized always

for your choices, because some of us don't have the capacity to make the right ones, and some of us make the right ones and unfortunate things happen," Dicosimo said.

She noted there have been no serious problems with clients at the shelter.

"Most people just want to get in and go to sleep," Dicosimo said

She added the shelter is for all genders and no one will be treated differently based on their religion or sexuality.

"It's safe for everybody," she said.

But there is a rule in place that says Child and Family Services must be called when anyone under the age of 18 checks-in.

"But I mean they're going to have a place to stay until they can (come),' Dicosimo said.

The shelter's rule is stays can be no longer than 30 days, but exceptions to it can be made if space permits, Gauthier said.

"We won't leave these people outside," Gauthier said.

A small group of volunteers have staffed St. Francis Place, but more are desperately needed, because some have left.

"Basically it's a revolving door," Gauthier said.

Volunteer Carla Gauthier said the overnight shift from 10:30 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. is the hardest to staff.

She said the ideal volunteer to fill that shift would be someone who is caring and can stay up late.

"I think it's just the compassion for the people that have difficulties," she said.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call 204-482-6448.





The Selkirk Record Thursday, May 14, 2015 13 Chief urges caution, citing high risk of fire

Eastern region has logged the highest number of fires in Manitoba in 2015

By Laura Tutlies

Lake Winnipeg East Beach residents are being advised to use extreme caution when having outdoor fires.

East Beach fire and rescue (EBFR) have been kept hopping from one fire to another despite a 'fire ban' that was issued April 15.

The ban was lifted May 8 but Mother's Day weekend was still busy for firefighters.

According to fire chief Mark Sinclair his team responded to four dispatches for grass fires and one garbage dumpster on fire in Grand Beach Park on May 9 and 10. Volunteer firefighters have been called out two or more times a week ever since the fire ban was issued to St. Clements.

Rainfall has reduced the fire danger levels so the travel and burning permit restrictions were lifted late last week but common sense needs to prevail. If it is dry or windy – "Don't burn," says Sinclair.

A cottage located at 18 Frontier Rd.

near Beaconia was levelled earlier this month after a grass fire got out of control. This incident involved the fire departments of East Beaches, Victoria Beach, East Selkirk and Narol. The report indicates, "there were a total of four pumpers, five tankers, three rescue vehicles and 38 firefighters" from the four local fire departments.

It is believed the fire at 18 Frontier Road was caused due to high winds and tree branches rubbing on power lines.

"Arching from the hydro lines in the tree branches may have caused the fire to start and the high winds fanned the fire which encroached on adjacent properties igniting wood piles, sheds and eventually a cottage," the official report stated.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Eastern Region with local district offices in Pine Falls, Lac du Bonnet and Beausejour, has had the highest number of reported fires in 2015. In Eastern Region (which ex-



RECORD PHOTO BY LAURA TUTLIES

A grass fire was the beginning of trouble which levelled this cottage at 18 Frontier Road, near Beaconia in East Beaches in April.

tends from Pine Falls to the US border from East of Lake Winnipeg and the Red River to the Ontario border) there have been 31 fires, which have destroyed a total 901 hectares or approximately 2,225 acres of land growth and property.

In Central Region (which includes

the Interlake and south to the US border) there have been 27 fires. Between the two areas there have been 58 fires of the total 65 fires reported this year in Manitoba. Although 911 can be used for emergency any wildfires should be reported to 1-800-782-0076 (TIPS / Wildfires)



14 The Selkirk Record Thursday, May 14, 2015 Horse and ATV ride continues fundraising tradition

Charlene and Victor Dziedzic host their 16th Annual Ride for Wishes

By Stefanie Lasuik

The 16th Annual Charity Ride for Wishes enables children with lifethreatening illnesses to make wonderful memories while making some memories of their own.

May 9th at the Dziedzic farm kicked off with a pancake breakfast serving 256 people before sending them out on either a horse or ATV ride. For the 450 riders, it was a cold, muddy day marked by the joy of being out on the farm on a Saturday afternoon. People hailing from Alberta, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Ontario and all corners of Manitoba joined in the ride.

The event featured an inflatable jungle obstacle course for kids, as well as a meet-and-greet with Disney princesses and heroes, a token-and-prize tent and elaborate face painting.

Over 800 people feasted on BBQ pork and turkey for the cause. Dinner was marked by constant updates on how much money the event had raised through the pancake breakfast, lunch stops, dinner, a poker derby, a



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Amber Pahl (left) and Emily Neufeld both shaved their heads for the cause raising \$2529.

silent auction, a 50/50 draw, corporate sponsors and pledges. At the end of the night, it totalled \$46,000 and counting.

The proceeds will go to the Manitoba Nunavut chapter of the Children's Wish Foundation, which grants the favourite wishes of kids with lifethreatening illnesses. Its aim is to create moments of joy for children

and their families as they endure countless hospital visits, medical procedures, and emotional uncertainty. It takes a p p r o x im a tely \$8,000-\$10,000 to grant one child's wish.

Russell Lepp, Manitoba and Nunavut's Wish Ambassador, attended the event. Russell, now six years old, underwent a heart

RECORD PHOTOS BY STEFANIE LASUIK

Six-year-old Russell Lepp attended the 16th annual Charity Ride for Wishes at Charlene and Vic Dziedzic's ranch as the Manitoba and Nunavut's Wish Ambassador. Lepp was made an honourary junior fire chief by members of the Teulon Rockwood Fire Department.

transplant due to a congenital heart condition at five months of age. The complications of such a procedure, however, continue to this day. Russell still sees heart specialists and takes anti-rejection pills.

On Saturday, members of the Teulon Rockwood Fire Department presented Russell with his own fire helmet, making him an honorary junior fire chief. After the presentation, Russell made his way on stage, took the microphone, and in true rock star fashion, tapped to see if it worked before thanking the crowd.

Amber Pahl and Emily Neufeld shaved their heads for the cause. Amber Pahl had raised \$1240 to do so, and \$1289 to be lifted out of the pockets of those in attendance and into donation cowboy hats spontaneously sent around the barn. After thanking all of the members

nine-year-old Emily Neufeld inspired

After thanking all of the members of the South Interlake Wish Team and the event volunteers, Charlene emotionally announced that the 17th Annual Wish Ride, set for May 14, 2016, will be their final. The couple has raised approximately \$800,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation in the sixteen years they've run the event and hope next year's will be a smashing success.

"Let's go out with a bang," Char encouraged the crowd.

The evening ended with a performance by the Manitoba Metis Spirited Dancers and a barn dance for all those in attendance.

Char Dziedzic said that her inspiration for the annual fundraiser is children, noting that her and her husband are lucky to have 10 healthy grandchildren of their own, who could at any point become Wish children. She believes it's important to create a memory for the Wish children and their families so that if something ever happened, they would still have that memory.

Anybody who still has pledge sheets or would like to donate can still do so by contacting Char at charvicdziedzic@gmail.com.



Suspicious envelopes sent to Selkirk court

Envelopes latest in string of 'suspicious' packages arriving at Canadian courts

By Austin Grabish

The courthouse in Selkirk has joined the growing list of justice buildings across the country that have received suspicious packages from China.

RCMP confirmed the Provincial Court building on Eaton Avenue received two suspicious envelopes, but wouldn't say when the envelopes arrived at the court.

A Justice source said the envelopes were received sometime at the end of April through the mail.

The source said the two envelopes were from China and contained a number of documents.

"It was a big envelope from Hong Kong," said the source. No one got sick from opening the packages in Selkirk, and RCMP said the envelopes tested negative for harmful substances.

But several people have fallen ill after opening other suspicious packages, including two court staffers in Thompson, who suffered shortness of breath, burning eyes and throat.

Last Monday, four employees at a courthouse in Amherst, N.S. also became nauseous and dizzy after opening one of the envelopes.

Seventeen Provincial Court buildings across Manitoba had received the 'suspicious' packages as of last Tuesday.

The packages appeared at courthouses in Winnipeg, Morden, Brandon, Minnedosa, and Thompson at the start of April before showing up at other Canadian courts.

RCMP spokeswoman Tara Seel said Manitoba Mounties are in contact with investigators from other jurisdictions, but couldn't comment further about the investigation.

Police believe one person is responsible for sending the packages.



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Drunk man charged for driving, shooting at random

By Austin Grabish

RCMP in Sprague have charged a St. Clements man for firing a weapon at random and driving a vehicle, all while impaired.

On May 2 around 9:30 p.m., RCMP responded to a report of a man who was driving recklessly and carelessly using a firearm.

Officers from Sprague and Steinbach went to a rural property in the RM of Piney, Manitoba, and upon arrival, witnessed the man shooting a firearm at random.

Police said it didn't appear the man was firing at anyone or anything in particular.

RCMP have arrested and charged St. Clements resident Gregory Vincent,

He is charged with careless use of a firearm, unauthorized possession of a firearm, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose and unsafe storage of firearms.

Vincent was remanded into custody and appeared in Winnipeg Provincial Court on May 4.

He is presumed innocent and none of the charges have been proven in court.



Selkirk hoping to bloom this summer

By Austin Grabish

City officials have plans in the works that will see Selkirk looking its finest, and they hope those plans which won't put a strain on city resources, will wow Communities in Bloom judges who will roll into town for the fifth year in a row later this summer.

City of Selkirk director of culture, recreation, and green transportation Chris Carruthers, said Selkirk plans to reduce its dependency on the public grid by implementing environmentally friendly practices that double as cost savers.

To start, the city will switch to xeriscaping, which is a landscaping method that utilizes water-conserving technologies.

Flower baskets that require water only once a week will be placed around Selkirk, and rainwater in

the Selkirk Park will be used to feed plants instead of tap water.

Carruthers said costs would be cut, because city staffers won't have to spend as much time watering flowerbeds and plants.

"What we want to do is get away from this relying on the city grid," Carruthers said.

The City of Selkirk also plans on buying plants that can re-grow year after year instead of making purchases that only last one season.

"It's basically evolving into using perennials rather than annuals," Carruthers said.

Carruthers said Selkirk strives to do something different every year for the Communities in Bloom competition, which evaluates towns and cities on

Continued on page 22





RECORD PHOTO BY AUSTIN GRABISH

City of Selkirk director of culture, recreation, and green transportation Chris Carruthers, and Communities in Bloom provincial co-ordinator Diane Banash are excited the City will be competing in the community beautification contest again this year.



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Standing firm on GMO foods



> HARRY SIEMENS

ome weeks ago I wrote a column based on research of the mighty little flaxseed and how healthy it really is if you take a couple teaspoons of the milled stuff every day.

This isn't about getting a shiny coat like dogs do, but about cutting back on heart attacks by 30 per cent or more.

You know that my role is and will always be

to advocate for farmers and the good job they do of raising food that is healthy, safe, and costeffective.

So I've told the story of flax and will tell it again and again because someone I know who had high blood pressure followed the recommended dosage and saw his blood pressure drop. This isn't only wives' tales: the St. Boniface Research Centre is getting the same results from their own controlled studies.

In today's issue you see the story with Gordon Bacon on not only how healthy pulse crops are as a great source of protein, but how they too control blood sugar levels and cardiovascular disease.

Farmers do an amazing job with feeding the masses around the globe. Not everything is gold that glitters, they say, but in this case they're taking a commodity and turning it into

Continued on page 20

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etail loss monitor, brand new Radiator, serial # 488890. Massey Ferguson 885 diesel swather with 25 ft Macdon header, Side drive over swather carrier. Hesston 565 T Round baler, total bales 10,775 serial # 5657. Renn 18 in Roller mill pto drive on transport. KELLO model 210 heavy 12 ft Offset breaking disc. Hesston 2410 40 ft Disc. Laurie Packer Bar 40 ft. 1998 Summers 5 bar Tine Super Harrow 60 ft, Cl model



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> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 19

healthy ingredients that will find their way onto your plate.

But, stop the presses: there are those people who want to destroy the much

maligned genetically modified foods that have in some cases been around for centuries.

My colleague, farm broadcaster

Orion Samuelson, tells me he took on again the people who keep claiming GMO foods kill millions.

To do that, Orion turned to another voice to fight the battle.

He says that at the Annual Coca Cola

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Shareholders Meeting held on April 29 in Atlanta, Justin Danhof, director of the National Center for Public Policy Research, addressed shareholders and Coca Cola executives from the floor and shared these thoughts:

"Despite the fact that GMOs are mainstream agriculture, that GMOs feed people more efficiently, that GMO crops are more environmentfriendly than conventional crops, and there is scientific consensus GMO foods are safe, activists still attack companies such as Coca-Cola for using GMOs in some of its products."

"Last year Scientific American reported that the delayed application of Vitamin A-enhanced Golden Rice, thanks to controversies stirred by anti-GMO activists, had cost over 1.4 million life years in India alone. This is real human suffering and death."

"The anti-GMO attacks come from Americans who have likely never missed a meal in their lives. The campaign against GMOs is unscientific, fear-based and inhumane, but they are winning. One ABC news poll showed 93 per cent of Americans think the federal government should mandate GMO labeling-a tactic they hope will elevate GMOs with taboo products such as tobacco and alcohol."

"As perhaps the most recognized brand in the world, Coca Cola has an opportunity and indeed a duty to do more to bridge the GMO information gap and educate consumers about the safety of GMO products."

Orion and I both fully agree with what Mr. Danhof had to say, and we wish food companies would spend as much time defending science as they do reacting to emotional activists whose claims are not based on science.

We have been consuming GMO foods for four decades now and I have yet to see the first death certificate that lists cause of death from consuming GMO foods.

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Here is one other thing to remember, as the Economic Times reports: 1.3 million children die from malnutrition, while zero, nada, no one has ever died from GMOs.

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The Selkirk Record Thursday, May 14, 2015 21

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tidiness, environmental action, heritage conservation, forestry, and landscaping.

"Because when your judges come you don't want them to see the same thing every year," Carruthers said.

And Carruthers said the judges who will roll into Selkirk in a few months won't be seeing the same as they did last year.

"We get the judges out when we hope the community is looking its best," said Communities in Bloom provincial co-ordinator Diane Banash.

"It's what your community is doing, and the community and civic pride," Banash said.

The date of the judges' summer visit hasn't been decided yet, but Carruthers said when the judges come by they will be shown new efforts the city has made to make the community

bloom.

One initiative is a new partnership between the City and area businesses that is called 'Adopt a Bed'.

The city supplies businesses with flowers for free of charge in exchange for a commitment to maintain the plants.

Communities in Bloom will give Selkirk a score, which will say how well the city has done on the criteria it evaluates.

Selkirk currently holds four blooms, but Carruthers would like to see that number grow to five, which is the maximum, because then the city can compete in the national category.

But Carruthers said he wouldn't be blue if the city doesn't get the fifth bloom this year.

"It's all friendly competition," Carruthers said.

Saying "Neigh" to Cancer Woodlands family prepares for annual cancer fundraiser

By Stefanie Lasuik

The Schotts are ready to show up cancer. Maryls, Stacey, Bonnie, Monica and Daniel of Woodlands are set to run a charitable horse show on June 27, with all proceeds going to CancerCare Manitoba and the Brain Tumor Foundation of Canada. This, the fourth horse show put on by the Schotts, looks to continue a tradition that has thus far raised \$25,000.

'Showing Up Cancer' was an initiative started by Stacey Schott in memory of her father, Eric, who passed away from brain cancer in 2007.

The event will feature 14 classes including Western, English, and lead line including fun categories in barrel racing and pole bending. A silent auction will round out the day.

The show, which was previously held in Stonewall, will take place at Selkirk Agricultural fair grounds and entry forms can be found on the 'Showing Up Cancer' Facebook page, by calling Maryls at 204-383-0193, or emailing showingupcancer@gmail.com





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Chatting about life stresses and how to cope

By Laura Tutlies

Elaine Vincent is cool, calm and collected, a gentle voice in a world sometimes filled with chaos. A true professional - she has worked, first with the North Eastman Regional Health Authority (NEHA) and now the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (RHA) as a mental health coordinator for many years.

Her vocation takes her all over the eastern part of the region and regularly into First Nation communities as well as communities considered 'off the grid'.

Robyn Laurie, the Interlake-Eastern RHA wellness facilitator based out of Lac du Bonnet, is an inspiration and true advocate of positive mental health. A new-comer to the position, she is an ideal fit with respect to wellness. Her cheerful disposition and enthusiastic demeanor plus years of experience with health care are reflected as she interacts with folks who have come to 'Coffee & a Chat'. The guests this day came to East Beaches to learn more about services available within the region and general information about mental wellness.

Mental illness has registered at the top of the chart of challenges for researchers looking at chronic disease. Along with cancer, and illness involving diabetes, hypertension, respiratory illness, etc. - mental illness has scored exceedingly high with respect to addressing overall wellness. Mental illness breeds depression, anxiety and often a loss of hope, which leads to suicide. These are issues that the RHA considers priority and integral to wellness and the folks dealing with issues of chronic illness and mental health.

The Interlake-Eastern suicide prevention committee invited residents in select communities to join them for a cup of coffee in recognition of mental health awareness week, May 4 to 11. The theme this year is 'Let's talk mental health – make it your business'. They did exactly that. There was no formal presentation only one-to-one interaction between the Interlake-Eastern RHA representatives and the guests at the coffee and chat held at the Grand Marais Community Central (GMCC) Healthcare offices along with other places throughout the region.

"We've partnered with businesses in communities that don't have a local community health office to provide residents with an opportunity to come have a coffee with us and talk," says Laura Tanguay, clinical team manager with Interlake-Eastern RHA's community mental health program.

The team visits communities that are not on the big scale landscape.

"Often folks in small communities are left out of the loop when it comes to awareness of services that include workshops and advice," said Tanguay.

Between May 4 and 8, the teams visited Oak Point in the Interlake, plus Bisset, Lockport, Anola, Grand Marais, Garson and Prawda in the eastern district as part of the initiative to bring information about services directly related to mental well-being to places outside of the centres that host hospitals and major health facilities.

"We'll have information available on how to help someone who is struggling and what mental health services are available," says Tanguay.

What is mental health? Laurie and Vincent answer almost in unison - "It is balance."

With the stresses of everyday life, to say nothing of genetic imbalances that influence our perspective and the way we deal with others as we interact



RECORD PHOTO BY LAURA TUTLIES

Pictured left to right, wellness facilitator Robyn Laurie, mental health employee Elaine Vincent and EBRC organizer Roberta Carriere brought awareness of mental health service options to Grand Marais last week.

socially, both advocates for mental wellness insist that "there are tools available to direct people to services and care". There are even specific services directed toward youth.

Roberta Carriere, the organizer for the 'Coffee and a Chat' in Grand Marais, quickly signed up the team to return for sessions on 'Craving Change' which deal with emotional eating and the issues of 'stress eating'. These sessions will be held at the GMCC in June. Other interactive activities were also proposed. Geo-caching will likely take place in August along with health workshops involving RHA dieticians and health professionals who are keen to use the Grand Marais facility for the purpose of wellness.

Happy to help out



RECORD PHOTO BY MICHELLE BALHARRY Over \$2,000 was raised for Ronald McDonald House Charities on McHappy Day in Selkirk last Wednesday. Selkirk RCMP officer Paul Human was one of the special guests on hand serving meals. He was happy to pose for a picture with McHungry customer Jesse Desmottes.

Dancers Disney bound



RECORD PHOTO BY STEFANIE LASUIK

The senior dance squad of Rossdale Ukrainian Dance School performed in between sets at the Quarry Choristers' production of "The Ukrainian Job" on May 2 and 8 in Stonewall. The group practises for two and a half hours weekly from September to May under the direction of Peter Storoschuck—work that has punched them a ticket to dance in Disney. The dancers are excited to take their talents to Orlando and perform at Disney World on the Disney Waterside Stage on July 7. The group consists of dancers from St. Andrews, Stonewall, Stony Mountain, and Teulon.



Blackner brilliant in gymnastics

By Brian Bowman

After taking two years off from competition, Emily Blackner has certainly made up for lost time.

In fact, her competitors probably wish that she had taken more time off.

The 17-year-old gymnastic sensation from St. Andrews was outstanding at the Western Canadian Championships earlier this month – winning the National Open - in Okotoks, Alta.

Blackner won a gold medal in All Around and a bronze in the Uneven Bars.

"I definitely wasn't expecting it," said Blackner last Friday just before her training session at the Panthers Gymnastics Club in Winnipeg. "I was going in wanting to do a personal best and the outcome was just extra."

Blackner beat out several elite gymnasts from across western Canada.

"The competition was really good," said Blackner, who attends West Kildonan Collegiate. "The top spots were really close."

Blackner's return to competitive gymnastics has been an impressive one. She was forced to take time off in February, 2013 due to a back injury but has returned even better.

"I took two years off and this year was my first year back," she noted."When I came back, I was just happy to do my stuff again. But being able to compete and be back with everyone was just great. It was just icing on the cake getting gold at westerns.'

But those results have hardly come by accident. Blackner trains five days a week for five hours each day.

"I've been doing 25 hours a week since I was in Grade 5," Blackner explained. "When I started high school, I dropped afternoon classes so I would only go in the mornings. I've had to do a lot of strength training to get myself back to the shape that I needed to be in to compete."

Blackner represented Manitoba at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George, B.C. back in early February, finishing 18th overall. It was her second CWG as she competed in Halifax in 2011.

"I thought I did really well in my placing, considering there were a lot of girls there from Team Canada." she said, noting she will be competing at the nationals later this month."At my first Canada Games, I didn't even make finals, so it was really great to be a part of it."

What makes Blackner's recent accomplishments even more remarkable is her size. Excelling in gymnastics while standing 5-foot-8, is extremely rare in the sport. In fact, it's basically unheard of.

"Usually 5-foot-5 and under is the max for gymnasts, so for me being this tall, most girls feel it's too hard for them or they just quit because it's just too hard on their bodies. It's something that you have to adjust to and get used to."

Robert Persechino, who coaches Blackner along with his wife Helene Desmarais, said his star gymnast has been doing extremely well in her return to competition this year.

"Right now, Emily is the tallest gymnast in Canada," Persechino said. "At 5-foot-8, it demands a lot of determination and perseverance to pursue the sport. She has always worked hard and stayed positive (while away from competition)."



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ROBERT PERSECHINO

Above, St. Andrews' Emily Blackner was outstanding at the Western Canadian Championships earlier this month, winning the National Open in Okotoks, Alta. At right, Blackner (middle) won a gold medal in All Around.

> **"I WAS GOING IN** WANTING TO DO A PERSONAL BEST AND THE OUTCOME WAS JUST EXTRA"



Royals hit the pitch against MBCI

By Brian Bowman

The Selkirk Royals boys' soccer team played their biggest game of the season this past Tuesday.

If Selkirk lost, it would be their only game of the season.

Selkirk played the MBCI Hawks in a must-win KPAC quarter-final game at Buhler Recreation Park in Winnipeg. The Royals were ranked No. 3 while MBCI was the sixth-ranked squad.

No score was available due to Tuesday's press deadline.

The winner of that game advances to the league semifinals Thursday against the winner of the Miles Mac/Transcona quarter-final. The loser, meanwhile, has its season (if one could call it that) end.

"It's a one-and-down tournament again," said Royals' coach Kevin Lopuck.

This year's edition of the Royals has a much different look than last year's team. There are no superstars on this year's squad but the Royals do have some talent.

"We're not really sure what to expect,' Lopuck admitted, noting the Royals have three players from Spain on this year's team."We have a lot of good athletes, guys that are really motivated, even though we only had 12 or 13 guys come out."

To defeat MBCI, the Royals are going to have to play as a team, said Lopuck. It's a bit of a cliché, but it's really true when a team plays its first game of the season with so much at stake.

"Without any individual stars like in year's past, you can get into a trap of depending on those stars, so this year we don't have that," Lopuck said."We have to play as a team and communicate. There's enough talent here that the goals should come if we get shots on net."

Defensively, Lopuck said he has plenty of confidence in Selkirk's players on the back end and in goal.

"The key thing is we have to score," Lopuck stressed. "With the spring season, you never know with the wind and rain what will happen. The same thing happened last year against West K. We thought we could beat them and it was the windiest day, like a hurricane out there, and they beat us in that weather."

The Royals started practicing for their season back in March (working out twice a week) and normally that is a time set up for tryouts. But due to low numbers this season, everyone who came out for the team made the club.

Selkirk's only informal game action came against Selkirk FC just a couple of weeks ago.

The MHSAA provincials will take place May 29-30 in Winnipeg.

Manitoba Ringette recognizes coaches

By Brian Bowman

The Manitoba Ringette Association announced its 2015 award winners and Hall of Fame inductees in a media release last Friday.

West St. Paul's Joe Cabral was one of three winners of the 2015 Coach of the Year award. Cabral was the head coach of the Garden City U16 and U19 B teams. The other two winners were Lynn Girardin (head coach Bonivital Angels U14 AA) and Glen Spearing (head coach Bonivital Angels U16 AA).

Coaches of the Month awards went to Roman Romaniw (St. Andrews U12), Spiros Kavvadas (Angels U14 AA), Jennifer Krywy (East End U19 A), Len Grieve (East End U19 A), Chandra Bolianaz (East End U19 A) and Tom Mark (East End U19 A).

The 2015 Volunteer of the Year was Jocelyn MacLeod, who worked with the Canada Winter Games ringette program.

The Manitoba Ringette Association, meanwhile, offers different programs to assist with post-secondary education. The MRA Bursary program offers \$500 to two athletes in the AA, A and B loop for a total of six bursaries.

This year's recipients in the AA category were Raeanne Wysocki (Bonivital) and Catherine Lemoine-Courcelles (Eastman).

The lone recipient in the A category was Selkirk's Shaelyn Pepper (Interlake). The recipients in the B category were Shelby Yuskin (Transcona) and Katie Schoenborn (Eastman).

The MRA, in partnership with High Five Inc., also offers two scholarships, one to a rural athlete and one to an urban athlete, playing at any level. This year's recipients were Cassandra Groen (Charleswood) and Stony Mountain's Brooke Ogilvie (Interlake).

The MRA is also honouring four inductees into their Hall of Fame this season. Andrea Ferguson (Charleswood), Ainsley Ferguson (Charleswood), and Sheena MacDonald (Stonewall) will be inducted in the player category.

The other inductee into the Hall of Fame is NormVesey (Transcona) in the builder category.

Locals compete at provincial gymnastic championship



RECORD PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Hailey Hutchinson of West St. Paul (pictured in the first three photos from left to right), finished fifth all-around in P2 Open at the Edmond Financial Provincial Gymnastics Championships this past weekend. Hutchinson, who trains at the Panthers Gymnastics Club, finished third on beam, 10th on vault, ninth on ubars and ninth on floor routine. Selkirk's Kate-Lynne Hickey (pictured in the two far right photos) also trains at the Panthers Gymnastics Club and finished 14th all-around in P2 Open. Hickey placed eighth on beam, 12th on ubars, 11th on beam and 16th on floor.



Royals advance to league semifinal

By Brian Bowman

It's always a good day when a team wins a baseball game.

In the case of the Selkirk Royals, they won two of them Monday. Selkirk improved its KPAC record to a perfect 4-0 – and clinched first place - after wins over Kildonan East (15-7) and Garden City (4-3). The victory over Garden City came in extra innings.

"They were two really big wins for us," said Royals' head coach Michael Buffie. "We kind of struggled in Altona (last weekend), things didn't go as planned, but we rebounded back with two games that we really wanted and we really needed."

Ryan Moroz had an outstanding day Monday for Selkirk. In Game 1, Moroz was 4-for-4, which included a double and an inside-the-park home run. He also scored four runs and had four RBI.

"He was strong at the bat and defensively at shortstop," Buffie noted. "And in the second game on the mound, he pitched seven really strong innings for us to get the win."

The win over Garden City was an impressive one for Selkirk. The Royals played real well defensively, turning a pair of key double plays, including one to end the game.

Selkirk also escaped a fifth inning jam which saw Garden City have the bases loaded with no outs.

At the Altona tournament last weekend, meanwhile, Selkirk finished with an 0-3 record. The Stonewall Collegiate Rams defeated Selkirk 7-1 and then a very good Boissevain team beat the Royals 13-1.

Selkirk finished the tournament with an 11-10 loss to Steinbach in the consolation final.

Selkirk started its KPAC schedule May 5 with wins over Maples Collegiate (12-2) in four innings and Springfield Collegiate (no score was available). The win over Springfield came in walk-off fashion.

Selkirk will now play a KPAC semifinal game this Friday at noon at St. James Optimist Park against the winner of the Maples/Kildonan East matchup.

If the Royals win that game, they will advance to the league final, which will be played next Wednesday at Shaw Park.



RECORD PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER Kaelyn Lelonde and the Royals have advanced to the KPAC finals this Friday.

Garden City blanks Selkirk in KPAC quarter-final

By Brian Bowman

The Selkirk Royals and Garden City both had their share of quality chances in their KPAC girls' soccer quarterfinal Monday at Buhler Park in Winnipeg.

But it was Garden City that found the back of the net on their way to a 2-0 victory. The winners scored their first goal with about 10 minutes left in the first half and then the Fighting Gophers went up two goals in the second half.

"In the first half, they had the wind, which really helps," said Royals' coach Sam Basson. "The first half, I would say (Garden City) dominated. They kept the ball in our end but our goalie (Taylor Place) played really well for her first year playing in net for us."

The territorial play was much closer in the second half, but the Royals were on the wrong side of a couple of offside calls.

"Garden City controlled the game by about 60 per cent," Basson said. "But not too much more. We had a lot of chances and some through balls and a good corner.

"We definitely made their goalie work for it."

The No. 7 Royals earned a berth into

the quarter-finals after blasting No. 10 Murdoch Mackay 7-0 on May 4.

Brooke Anderson led Selkirk with three goals while Hannah Riskin (two), Jamie Fisher and Hayley Wiebe also tallied.

"That was completely 100 percent us," Basson stressed. "The ball was always in their half, I think Taylor touched the ball twice through the whole game."

Basson said the Royals worked well as a team on the field this season but Selkirk will lose several girls next year due to graduation. Still, Basson said the Royals have a lot of good, young players and some talented Grade 9s are expected to make the jump to high school soccer.

"The Grade 9s coming up next year, just like this year, are strong," said Basson, adding she was impressed with how her players could play multiple positions. "To build a good program, we (need) get more and more girls trying out."

Basson wanted to thank her coaching staff, which consisted of Brittany Fisher, Brittany Loschiavo, and Emerald Savary, for helping her out this season.



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UNDER THE HIGHWAYS PROTECTION ACT THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a hearing of the Highway Traffic Board will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 204-301 Weston Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba,

PERMITS – PART I – SECTION 9 H.P.A. AND PART III - SECTION 17 H.P.A. 1/009/025/S/15 -SCOULAR CANADA LTD.

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The Highway Traffic Board will be prepared to consider all submissions, written or oral, on the above applications by contacting the A/Secretary prior to or at the hearing.

200 - 301 Weston Street Michelle Slotin, A/Secretary Winnipeg, MB R3E 3H4 THE HIGHWAY Phone: (204) 945-8912 TRAFFIC BOARD



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32 The Selkirk Record Thursday, May 14, 2015



AUCTION SALE DAVE & ROLANDE SMITH

Saturday May 23 @ 10:00 am St. Anne, MB Jct Hwy 12 & Hwy #1 East 4 Miles on Hwy#1 then South on Paradise Rd 1 Mile then west 1/4 Mile on Dawson then South Proulx Rd

1 Block then East on Proulx Blvd. #125 Contact: (204) 422-9913

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Stuart McSherry (204) 467-1858 or (204) 886-7027 www.mcsherryauction.com

Friday, May 22 (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.) Saturday, May 23 (starting at 10:30 A.M.) Rain date: Sunday, May 24, 2015

Location: 98 Fifth Street South, Town of Beauseiour All items sold "as is, where is" condition with no warranties implied or expressed.

FRIDAY - Hobart platform scale * Assortment of cake pans, trays, baking items, and household items * Fleetwood cabinet stereo * lamps * end table *and more

SATURDAY - Large assortment of shop tools & items * garden tools & items * Fireplace * Ext. cords * DeWalt radial arm saw * Scaffolding * shovels * JD power washer * Power tools 1963 Ford Galaxie 500 4 dr. sedan, 352 V8, colour red, 125197 miles, excellent condition, manual original owner, car stored in garage. Accessories & parts included (sold at approx. 2:30 P.M.) * 1970's Ford LGT, model 145, 14 h.p. lawn & garden tractor c/w 42 " mower deck, snowblower, cab, 36" tiller * 48" lawn aerator * Craftsman 27 inch snow blower, elec. start * Simplicity Cavalier 3108 riding mower Lawn-boy push mower * Attic Arise roof mount ventilator * Grass seeder & much, much more * 4ft. x 8ft. gas shed c/w 2 compartment gas tank & filters inside * COLLECTIBLES: Texaco, B/A, Esso pails, etc. * musical squeeze box, and more

NOTE: This auction has numerous interesting items, too many to mention. The Rerick's have relocated and these items must go. Irene Rerick was well known for her "Irene;s Cakes & Candy" business in the Beauseiour area. Don't miss this auction sale!

TERMS OF THE SALE: *Cash Debit MC Visa Accented * PST & GST applied * All items must be paid for on day of sale * Items may be added or deleted before sale time *Anv statement made by the auctioneer on item(s) before being sold shall take precedence over any other advertising * Lunch sold Once sold, buyer responsible for item(s)* Auctioneer/owner not responsible for errors in advertising. A bidding number is required for Friday & a new bidding number is required for Saturday.



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Announcements Sellis Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 785-1618 or Email lucy@selkirkrecord.ca ANNOUNCEMENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS Is your Company **CARD OF THANKS** GRADUATION looking to recruit Aboriginal job seekers? BIRTHDAY urbanmine I would like to thank my two sisters for putting Advertise your ARE YOU AN on a great party and all the nieces that helped. job title and location in the classified section URBANMINER? would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate my 50 year milestone. All the cards of 130 newspapers across Saskatchewan Get The Top Tips with "Best Wishes" and those of you who put o maximize the value and Manitoba a little extra inside (You know who you are!), of your scrap metal (950,000 Circulation) those of you who could not make it but wished Have the position GO TO: me a "Happy Birthday". referred to www. ww.AreYouAnUrbanminer.ca -Bradley Small firstnationsiobsonline.com and your company Tip #6 can earn you 10% website for the more on your scrap! full job description. Tip #9 helps you get more value! Hip or Knee Email: 🗭 western sales danbsully@sasktel.net Replacement? for more information Agricultural 72 Rothwell Road Service Technicians Rosetown, Sask. **First Nations** Problems with Jobs @nline @ Mobility? Please visit The Disability westernsales.ca Tax Credit for full job description \$2,000 Yearly Email resume's to: Tax Credit Selkirk **Chelsea Grove** careers@ \$20.000

or fax



Your B.A. degree in Criminal Justice. Congratulations! -Love from your son Destin, Dad, Mom,

sisters and families

Happy 75th Birthday Stella May 20th We love you!





- Season for the
 - Operators
- Labourers
- Heavy Duty Mechanic/Apprentice
 Traffic Control

51. Oldest Swiss Un. (alt. sp.)

- 54. Very high frequency 55. Name for ancient Syria

56. NFL's "The Big Cat" Leon

- 57. Jai __, sport
- 58. Actress Blanchett

workplace

38. Purplish red

43. Secure

station

45. Macaws

40. NYSE symbol TEN

46. Open and sincere

44. Commercial-free TV

- 59. Cords
- 60. Not or 64. Constitutes
- 29. Raise with great force

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Fun By The Numbers 9 Loss pacet es 2 Theory et love Sugleka They 6 5 initial perioding puzzie w Bave yw booked from the moment you 2 í. spone off, so VERDET VIEW 4 pener and put y.ait sudoki. 2 7 Second to the lens!

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Sadoha puzzies are formatied as a 949 and iproken dawn, nie nine Brot kanes. Te terbe a sudoku ithe nambers 7 through 9 most 51 each row column and post Each number can appear new code is each row caluero and eco. You can Saure at the other in which the outroets rul appracibly using the numerical uses a ready provided in the power. The more anothers you name, the easier C gets to solve the provid-



Crossword Answer

- 47. Confederate soldier 7. Type of TV program 8. Shoulder adornment 9. Meat-roasting rod
- 48. Body fluids 49. Atomic #35

44. 3.26 light years

- 50. Seize
- 52. In event that
- 53. Grassy plain
- 56. Enzyme in milk
- 61. Rags
- 62. Actress May
- 63. In a way, aided 65. Humilities

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Digestive fluid
- 2. Capital of Norway
- 3. Plural of os
- 4. Young goats
- 5. "Peanuts" creator's initials 32. Dried-up

12. Spread over 14. Blackthorn fruit

15. Commingle

11. Anger

- 17. Affirmative
- 22. Horse used to set the pace
- 23. Appeals
- 24. British thermal unit
- 25. Complex red organic

10. Protective floor pad

- pigment containing iron 26. Bura
- 28. Languages of Sulu islands

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CLUES ACROSS 1. Library furnishings

- 10. A major N. Am. river
- 12. Music for a narrative poem
- 13. A set of steps
- 15. Shooting stars
- 16. Keenly perceptive
- 18. -__, denotes past 19. "3:10 to Yuma" actress
 - Gretchen
- 20. Old English
- 21. Sami
- 24. Brake horsepower
- 27. Interlocks
- 30. Twofold
- 31. Green, iced and Earl Grey
- 33. Maddie and ____, singers 34. Bridge-building degree
- 35. Flat-topped flower cluster
- 37. A waterproof raincoat
- 39. A way to ingest
- 41. Tayra genus

42. Birds

Announcements SelkinkRegord

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BIRTHDAY



Diane Cromarty May 17 She's so cool and our medical smarty Who really prefers not to party. She's dependable and sometimes lucky To win at bingo would be just ducky. She doesn't want us to be tricky Just stavs so calm and never picky. Oh yeah... and today she's Sixty! We love you sister!

ANNOUNCEMENTS BIRTHDAY



May 17, 2015 Adam Allen Happy 18th Birthday! A wonderful life is waiting for you. A life full of happiness, success And potential. You truly deserve the best. -Love Mom, Keith, Cam, Shawntae, And all the family.

LECTRICA 2015 Manitoba Electrical Expo The Electrical expo is oper

to all electrical contractors, designers, specifiers, electrical maintenance personnel as well as building owners and managers. The Expo features 2 days

of displays and seminars

for the entire industry. 2015 Manitoba

Electrical Expo May 20 / 21 Red River Exhibition Park

Winnipeg. Details and Registration available online at

ww.eamanitoba.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MEMORIAM



ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MEMORIAM

Aaltji D. Ungarian

February 8, 1933 - February 22, 2015 Aaltji D. Ungarian (Faas) died at 83 years old Aaltji was predeceased by her husband Eli, also her daughter Rose. Aaltji came from Holland in 1953 to come to Winnipeg and sponsored her mom. dad. sister and brother in 1954 from Holland, Aaltii is survived by her son Henry (Viki), grandchildren, Adam (Julie), Nicklass (Lee) and Magan (Nick). Also, Aaltji's greatgrandchildren, Samatha, Ryker, Damick, and Madalyn. Also Aaltji's daughters Alice (Paul) and Elaine (Ron).

For: Mom If flowers grow in Heaven, Lord, then pick a bunch for us. Then place them in our Mother's arms And tell her they're from us. Tell her that we love her and miss her, And when she turns to smile. Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MEMORIAM

Kubic John (May 17, 1964) Rose (May 5, 1991)

Parents, we want you to know that we still miss you. Never again will we hear your voice, enjoy your presence or have your unwaving support that you lovingly bestowed upon us.

-Son, Bob (Stella) and all your grandchildren

Bonnie and Wally. Sandra. Stephan and Evelyn

OBITUARY Kurt Otto Scheitor

Suddenly, on Monday, May 11, 2015, at the Brandon Regional Hospital, Kurt Scheitor, aged 68 years of Selkirk, MB, beloved husband of Phyllis; father of Chris and Doug; step-father of Carrie and Richard

Full obituary to follow.

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements. www.gilbartfuneralhome.com





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Arnold Minish May 15, 2014 May the winds of love blow softly, And whisper for you to hear; That we'll always love and miss you, And wish that you were here.

-Lovingly remembered by June and family

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MEMORIAM

Randy Smith July 12, 1962 – May 13, 2014 Missed and remembered

-Love Tart



Dolores Mutcher September 23, 1944 – December 26, 2013 Happy (Belated) Mother's Day Every day we think of you. We see something you made for us. We remember a story about you. We see a little bit of you in your granddaughters. You are forever in our hearts. We are sad that you are not here with us, But happy to know you are together with Dad in Heaven.

-Love always, Brian, Annie and Amanda,





Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped and pitted medjool dates
- 1 cup (250 mL) orange juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) soy or nut butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla 1 tsp (5 mL) cinnamon
- 2 cups (500 mL) large flake oats
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) wheat germ
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) ground flaxseed
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) dried cranberries or raisins

Directions

In a small saucepan, combine dates and orange juice. Bring to a gentle simmer over medium heat for about 5 minutes or

Cranberry Granola Bars

until very soft. Add soy butter, vanilla and cinnamon and stir until smooth.

In a large bowl, combine oats, wheat germ, flaxseed and cranberries. Pour over date mixture and stir to combine. Spread into a parchment paper lined 8 inch (1.5 L) baking pan and press down evenly. Bake in a 350 F (180 C) oven for about 25 minutes or until golden and firm to the

touch. Let cool before cutting into bars. Tip: Wrap bars individually for ease to

pop into lunches. For a chewier bar, simply store in the refrigerator. These bars will last up to 1 week at room temperature or in the refrigerator.

Prep time: 15 min | Cook time: 25 min Makes: 12 bars

Preparation

creaminess.

Serves 1

Combine milk and oats and

Stir in quinoa, blueberries,

maple syrup, pecans and

cinnamon and serve hot.

cook according to package

instructions to desired

www.heartandstroke.mb.ca

Nutty Blueberry Quinoa Oatmeal

Ingredients 2/3 cup lowfat milk

- 1/3 cup old-fashioned oats 1/4 cup cooked quinoa 1/4 cup blueberries
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup or sweetener of choice 2 tablespoons pecan pieces
- 2-3 dashes cinnamon

Bircher Muesli With Dried Plums

Ingredients

- 1 cup coarsely grated unpeeled apple
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup steel-cut oats
- 1/2 cup chopped raw natural almonds
- 1/2 cup raw sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup (about 3 ounces) quartered pitted dried plums
- 1 1/2 cups apple juice
- Grated zest and juice of 1 orange
- Sliced bananas and yogurt, for serving



covered, overnight or up to 3 days. To serve, portion into bowls and top with bananas and yogurt.

Makes 4 servings

Morning Energy Mocha Balls

Ingredients

- 11/4 cups Honey Bunches of Oats Morning Energy Chocolatey Almond
- Crunch cereal 1/2 cup walnut halves
- 1 teaspoon chia seeds
- 1 teaspoon flax seeds
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 4 tablespoons almond butter 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup 2 tablespoons dried cranberries
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons espresso powder
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 1/4 cup toasted unsweetened coconut for rolling (optional)

Preparation

Place cereal in a food processor. Process until finely ground. Add walnut halves, chia seeds, flax seeds, sesame seeds, almond butter, honey, maple syrup, cranberries, vanilla, espresso powder and sea salt to bowl. Process until well blended and mixture forms stiff dough. Remove dough and form into compact ball with hands. Form dough into 1-inch balls and roll in toasted coconut, if desired. Place balls on wax-paper lined sheet and let stand for about one hour, then transfer to tin or container with tight lid. Balls will keep for at least a week at room temperature, or they can be chilled.

Preparation Time: 15 minutes Total Time: 1 hour 15 minutes Serves: 20 balls

Protein-Packed Berry Burst Smoothie

Ingredients 1 packet plain instant

- oatmeal
- 1/2 cup fat free or lowfat milk 1/2 cup strawberries, hulled,
- chopped
- 1 tablespoon honey 1/8 teaspoon ground
- cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon walnuts, chopped

Preparation Combine first five ingredients in carafe of blender. Cover and refrigerate overnight. In the morning, blend mixture until smooth. Top with chopped walnuts.











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LORD SELKIRK

There's magic happening in Lord

Student Services works with community to help students succeed

rish Glass, Director of Student Services in the Lord Selkirk School Division, describes the department quite simply - they do whatever it takes to help students achieve their ultimate goal, which is of course, to graduate.

It's a department that some people might not be aware of, but the work it does today and has done over the past several decades puts the division at the forefront of educational success in so many ways.

Glass and Assistant Director Arlene Beresford oversee Student Services' staff, which includes a Lead Teacher along with Clinicians in the areas of psychology, speech and language, reading, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and social work

They work together with Classroom Teachers, Educational Assistants and Resource Teachers to keep all students in the classroom, rather than pulling students out and working with them outside of the classroom setting.

Glass said inclusion is the goal and Student Services has various teams that can go into the classroom and help the teacher design a way to work with students who need more help, while still working with the class as a whole.

She points to the True Inclusion Program, or TIP, and the Behavioural Intervention Support Team, or BIST, as two programs that work towards that goal.

TIP deals with students with significant cognitive disabilities and BIST works with students with behaviour problems.

"There is some overlap with BIST and TIP because kids with visible disabilities often have behaviour (issues)," Glass explained.

Previously, school divisions would pull these students out of the classroom, but Glass said they now do all they can to keep the student in the classroom by giving educators tools to be able to work with all students.

Students Services also works with outside agencies to give kids their best chance to succeed.

Both Glass and Beresford sit on numerous committees that include members of such organizations as the RCMP, Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Justice, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, and Child and Family Services, to name a few. The committees connect the division to the community and make student success something that everyone works towards.

"We're really fortunate in Lord Selkirk because we have the kind of community that really worries and cares about their kids," Glass said.

Beresford agreed, and pointed to the Early Childhood Development Coalition, Family Connections, as an example of the tremendous support

the region offers to students. The Coalition has representation from more than 27 community groups.

"It is phenomenal," Beresford said, noting day-care centres, Healthy Child Manitoba and even the

> Left. Student Services Director Trish Glass with Assistant Director Arlene Beresford.



Gaynor Family Regional Library, which runs programs, are involved.

"We just have representatives from everywhere."

The Families First program works with families and kids from birth. If there are issues Student Services knows about before the child even enters the division, then it allows them to prepare better and provide the new student the supports that are needed.

There's also support for students when they achieve their goal of graduation, with places such as Community Living Selkirk and Hearthstone, both of which work with people with disabilities.

"Those partnerships are amazing," Beresford said.

"And they're so willing to work with us."

Glass said the school division and the community as a whole work together to make sure all kids have the best chance to succeed.

"That's the magic of Lord Selkirk School Division," she said.



2015 **Upcoming Events**

MAY 22, 2015 Grade 3 Dance Festival St. Andrews School 1:15 p.m.

MAY 26, 2015 Jr. High Outdoor Track Meet (Divisional) Selkirk Stadium Rain Date: May 27

> MAY 27, 2015 **Band Finale** Lord Selkirk Regional 7:00 p.m.

MAY 28, 2015 Baseball Selkirk Rec. Complex Gr.6 - 9:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Rain Date: June 2

Spring Choral Concert Lord Selkirk Regional 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 2, 2015 Spring Band Concert Ecole Selkirk Jr. High 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 3, 2015 Awards Evening Lord Selkirk Regional Grade 12 - 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 4, 2015 Jazz Café Lord Selkirk Regional 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 15, 2015 Elementary Track & Field Selkirk Stadium Gr.6 Rain Date: June 16

JUNE 17, 2015 Elementary Track & Field Selkirk Stadium Gr.4 & 5 Rain Date: June 18

JUNE 29, 2015 High School Graduation Selkirk Rec Complex 1:00 p.m.

LORD SELKIRK DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION Scott Kwasnitza, Superintendent Michele Polinuk, Assistant Superintendent Brian Spurrill, Secretary-Treasurer Deann Lane, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Good, Administrative Secretary Gerry Lemoine, Maintenance Supervisor Bill Laing, Transportation Supervisor Angie Munch, Director of Human Resources

LORD SELKIRK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

New York Contract of Contract

Message from the Chair



Much has been said lately about school taxes, local autonomy, trustees being more efficient, and the elimination of school boards. School funding is probably one of the most complicated systems that, no doubt, confuses even the smartest of accountants. But in the end, there are only two ways to obtain education funding – government contributions and local taxation.

In 2014-2015, the cost to educate one child in the Lord Selkirk School Division was \$13,236.00 (the provincial average was \$12,248) Having bac

(the provincial average was \$12,248). Having had my four children graduate from LSSD at an average cost of \$12,000 per child per year – a cost of approximately \$144,000 per child over 12 years – my education costs would have been \$576,000. Would I ever pay that in school taxes in my lifetime? Not likely. I know we also contribute by way of sales tax and income tax, but I know it is very unlikely that my contributions would come to over half a million dollars and that is not counting their post-secondary education. The Province contributed \$34.9 million to the 2015-2016 LSSD budget of \$56 million, leaving a difference of \$21 million. There are 16 buildings and 60 bus routes, driving thousands of kilometers per day, to get students safely to school and into safe buildings. Many will remember Filmon Fridays of several years ago that also came with layoffs of teachers and maintenance staff. During those lean years, our schools fell into disrepair and when we were able to re-hire, the costs to bring the buildings up to code were enormous. Many teachers were never re-hired unless replacing retirees or through enrolment increases.

We could save close to \$2 million dollars if we were to lay off 25 teachers today. This would result in significant cuts to programming and would have a profound impact on the quality of education. I would hope that the taxpayers would not want to see programs cut. Lord Selkirk School Division is the largest employer in the Interlake area with over 700 employees. Salaries and benefits make up almost 84% of our budget. Unfortunately, we do not have a huge commercial tax base to contribute to school taxes. As a result, the costs fall mainly on the homeowners.

Your elected trustees have taken the 2015-2016 budget very seriously and deliberated long and hard on ways to save tax dollars. There were no frills in this budget and decisions were based on the needs of the students in our Division. That is what local autonomy is about.

I hope that you will agree with us that quality education is not only an investment in our children, but also an investment in the community.

Revival of Local Advisory Committee in the works



Committee instrumental in bringing students with disabilities into the classroom gaining new purpose

here's a revival going on at Student Services and it's all about giving new life to a decades-old committee that was first established so parents of kids with cognitive disabilities could provide advice to the school division about desegregation.

Desegregation, where special needs students in the school division were separated from schools and taught elsewhere as a group on their own, is history now and inclusion is the new normal but Assistant Director of Student Services Arlene Beresford says there's still a place for the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). "It was a grassroots committee of parents who advised the school division about desegregation," Beresford said.

"We still have founding members on that committee."

Beresford said the committee did groundbreaking work around students with disabilities

and can take pride in the role they played in what amounts to not just the physical movement of special needs kids into schools, but the emotional embracing of them today, by everyone from staff to fellow students.

History shows that the parents on the LAC were passionate about how

I AM SPECIAL Hundreds of birds in the sky. Hundreds of fish in the sea. Hundreds of flowers in the fields. But there's only

one of me.

their kids should be treated and they were willing to help with bringing them into the schools and eventually into the classroom, where today they've become peers.

"When we go back and look at the history, it really was at that time a civil and human rights movement," Beresford said.

> "Kids were moved from off-site, to the basement of Daerwood School, to classrooms. And those parents were an integral part of that movement."

But now that kids with cognitive disabilities are included in the classroom, what's next for LAC?

Beresford and Student Services Director Trish Glass said the committee began to fade because with students in classrooms, its focus became blurry.

MISSION STATEMEN

The Lord Selkirk School Division is committed to providing quality educational programs and opportunities for its community of learners.

The Lord Selkirk School Division is committed to creating a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment to support and enable learners to develop the knowledge, skills, and values to reach their full potential.

Message from the Superintendent



here are many "guardian angels" who work quietly behind-the-scenes to contribute to the quality of education in Lord Selkirk School Division.

These unsung heroes are rarely featured in our newsletter. Typically, this space showcases the events that are happening in our schools.

The theme of this newsletter is "Beyond the Classroom". This edition highlights many of the supports and services that shape a positive course for our students and staff. These supports extend well beyond the school division and into the community.

Many of the staff featured in this newsletter have highlyspecialized skills, training, and experience. They support the challenging work that happens in classrooms by working closely with school teams. They are passionate about student success and work tirelessly on behalf of our children.

The complexion of schools has changed dramatically in the

past 10 years. Our students and families are facing many new challenges. These challenges often require supports that go well beyond the regular classroom. New challenges require flexible and creative approaches that promote student readiness to learn. As Lord Selkirk School Division enthusiastically embraces an inclusive approach that keeps kids connected to the classroom, the demand for new and innovative approaches is obvious.

The challenges of today's schools require a collaborative, team effort to address the learning needs of our students. I am proud to acknowledge the important contributions of all LSSD staff to the success of our students.

To those staff and community organizations that work "beyond the classroom" in support of our students, your work is truly "magical"!

"We had to do some self-reflecting. Like, why is this committee dwindling? Well it's dwindling because our kids are now in classes. There isn't that urgent need, parents aren't feeling 'I have to get my kids into class" Beresford said.

Glass said they invited current members of the committee along with others from the community to a planning session so they could look at where the committee's been and where they want it to go.

The planning session identified that although they've done a fairly good job with kids with visible disabilities, kids with invisible disabilities are really not being represented or supported in the way they should be on the committee.

"So kids that look typical, but might be living with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) for example, who may have significant functioning issues can get

themselves into trouble, and yet we are still working on educating our teams. We're still building capacity in that area," Glass said.

The goal now is to refocus the Local Advisory Committee and recapture the dedication and commitment the community had for it in the past.

Planning has been going well and Beresford said the future for LAC looks good.

"We are re-invigorated," Beresford enthused.

the FORMULA

EVER GIVE UP focus & persistence

NCOURAGE OTHERS kindness & shared learning

O YOUR BEST diligence & excellence

Learning to communicate

ids aren't bad just for the sake of being bad and members of Lord Selkirk School Division's Behaviour Intervention Support Team (BIST) know that.

The team's four members – Teachers Jill Wur and Tyler Farrand, Psychologist Candace Sabiston and Occupational Therapist Allison McBurney – work together to solve behaviour problems within the classroom.

"There's always a reason for the behaviour. Kids don't just go to school to be bad, there's a reason why they're doing what they're doing, and (our job) is to find that," Wur said.

"Sometimes it's like finding a needle in a haystack, but more heads, more eyes and more ears are better than one."

The BIST members work to achieve the division's goal of inclusion by helping build capacity so students can remain in the classroom. The team works with individual students with behaviour problems, groups of students or even entire classrooms.

"It's an inclusion model, so rather than pulling students out of the social environment with their friends and their peers, we go in and build capacity with the school team to help with behaviours and help with students within



Left to right, BIST members Wur, McBurney and Sabiston, TIP's Futros, and BIST's Farrand.

that environment," Farrand explained.

When the team receives a referral, they meet with the school team, including Teachers, Resource Teachers and Educational Assistants, to come up with a plan based on their needs.

BIST members can provide a plan for the classroom teacher to implement or they can come into the classroom and work alongside the teacher.

"If a classroom teacher really wants to have us right in there and show them some of the recommendations that we suggest, then we'll get right in there and work with the student and we'll use different strategies,"Wur said. We can be in

there side-

by-side with

teachers and we

can implement

those strategies

with them so

that they can

see how it can

actually work in

a real classroom

environment

"Sometimes they don't want that, sometimes they just want to be consulted and do it on their own."

Sabiston said it's nice when they get to go into the classroom because they can see their plan in action. Not all plans work, she said, and when you are in the classroom and can see where the plan succeeds and where it fails, you can adjust accordingly.

"We can go in and it's nice that we have the flexibility to do that. We can be in there side-by-side with teachers and we can implement those strategies with them so that they can see how it can actually work in a real classroom environment," she said.

"(If the) recommendations are not realistic or practical, then we can actually experience them. We'll realize that and we'll tweak and change them to make it work for the teacher."

Farrand said there was one classroom the team went into where there were several issues with several kids. They trained the school team in some social-emotional programing and helped build some self-regulation skills but realized the problems still persisted.

A second look, he said, made them realize that in this particular classroom, where students sat in groups at tables, the seating arrangement needed to be changed as well. They switched to row seating and that proved to be the final piece of the puzzle. Although working in rows was successful in this classroom, collaborative groupings may work in another.

Solutions can be that simple. McBurney said the classroom environment can be difficult for some students and if you consider what's in that environment you might be able to solve the problem.

"For some kids if they have sensory processing issues, then we focus a lot more on environmental recommendations and things that might be over-stimulating them in the classroom," McBurney noted.

"Like if there's a lot of visuals that are detrimental to a student's learning in terms of focus, we take some down."

Another tool the team has utilized is called a 5-point scale, which shows how the student is feeling, with "1" being happy and focused and "5" being very upset and unable to control their emotions.

The BIST members, along with the teacher and students, work on creating the scale so that it's unique to their classroom. They decide what each level is, include how they're feeling at each level and can even put pictures on the scale to help demonstrate.

Sabiston said that the students buy into it because they helped make it and it's also in their language and easy for them to understand.

"Instead of saying, 'I'm about to lose control and I don't feel like I'm in control of my emotions and my feelings right now'; that's really complicated language and really complicated thinking for a child, or even an adult. So just to say, 'I'm a "4", I need a break,' is a lot easier," Sabiston said.

BIST was established two years ago and replaced the Regional Support Centre. Wur said their caseload is up this year over last and teachers are becoming more and more accepting of the support.

It helps, Farrand said, that the team consists of teachers as well as other professionals so that there's an understanding of the classroom dynamic, as well as the skills Sabiston and McBurney bring to the equation.

"It's a nice blend. Jill and I can go in and we understand the amount of work that's on a teacher's caseload – it's not just that one student, there's 20 others, and they have to do reporting and all these other things that are going on," he said.

"So it's a nice blend of perspectives and a variety of backgrounds that we can use as a team to support."

Ecole Bonaventure French Immersion Rachelle Tougas, Principal Susanne Saiko-Gamble, Vice-Principal Phone: 785-8284 (K-6) Enrollment: 265 Centennial School Heidi Holst, Principal Phone: 482-3265 (K-6) Enrollment 135

Daerwood School Darcelle Saunders, Principal Phone: 482-4326 (K-6) Enrollment: 105 East Selkirk Middle School Ron Hummelt, Principal Bob Kovachik, Vice-Principal Phone: 785-2036 Dual Track English-Ukrainian Bilingual (5-6) English (5-9) Enrollment: 350

Happy Thought School Nancy Lovenjak, Principal Jason Chody, Vice-Principal Phone: 482-4521 Dual Track English-Ukrainian (K-4) Enrollment: 290

Lockport School Daryl Loeppky, Principal Diane Steiner, Vice-Principal Phone: 757-9881 (7-9) Enrollment: 380 Lord Selkirk Education Centre Steve Grahame, Director Brian Johnston, Director, Adult Learning Phone: 482-2121

LSSD AT A GLANCE

Flying high at the Professional Learning Centre

The geese are impossible to miss

ou might notice the framed photo on the wall with the 'Lessons From The Geese' message it bears, or perhaps you'll look up and see the ones suspended from the ceiling of the Professional Learning Centre (PLC), located inside Daerwood School

If you don't see them immediately, they'll come into your sights sooner or later.

They play an important role in the two-year-old Centre, and the Lead Teachers who work out of the PLC - Trish Goosen, Veronica Thomas, Brandie Lev and Chris Minarik - are more than happy to talk about their feathered friends.

Thomas says the hanging geese – art installations created by local artist Gordon Kanne – are really representative of what the Professional Learning Centre is all about.

The 'Lessons From The Geese' message tells how when geese flap their wings it creates an uplift for the birds following behind and when they fly in the V-formation, the entire flock adds 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Thomas says when it came time to design the Centre, that idea of working together to uplift and support each other, seemed fitting.

"We really have to practice what we preach in this role so with Universal Design we have to talk about planning with an end in mind, having that clear direction and being explicit about what we want things to look like at the end," she said.

"When we first started re-designing the space, we got together and thought about what is it that we want this place to be as a professional learning centre.

"That's where the idea behind the geese came."

The Lead Teachers are based out of the PLC, but admit they don't spend much of their time there. They go to different schools, offering support to staff and students, with the ultimate goal of student success.

But the Centre is a place where other division staff - and even others in education from outside the division - can come for development. It was important to create an environment that reflected what learning looks like today.

If you go into a classroom today, it won't necessarily have rows of desks - there could be tables set up with several students at each. Students might be gathered in another area of their school altogether, where there are

no desks, yet they're still learning. They might even be outside in the school yard for their lesson, because today's classrooms can be anywhere.

The PLC reflects that changing attitude towards learning.

"We intentionally designed the seating and the layout. We know that every learner is unique, so we have visual learners, audio learners, all kinds of learners, so you'll see we have a high table over there, we've got the board-style table here, we've got comfortable seating for two, if two teachers came to visit," Minarik says.

"We have a couch, a common room, we have a classroom with traditional tables, that can be moved, and a smart board. It's a very traditional classroom setting.

"But if we want to model what we believe, then we need to change what it looks like in classrooms."

Everything down to the colours was by design.

When educations the minds of our gestine. pice must not forget to educate shew have - Dalar Joras

sense of validation.

"When we say that they're valued, that really makes them feel very professional, which then translates back into the classroom.

"The colours were chosen with intent, around the Medicine Wheel. It's very subtle, but we wanted the space to be representative of all of our learners in our division."

"We wanted everything to be intentional," Goosen says.

Teachers from Ecole Bonaventure used the PLC during a recent professional development day and they made use of the entire space.

"What's really wonderful about this space, we don't just

have one functional space, we have many functional spaces and there's flexibility within all of them to make it suit whatever purpose your group needs," Thomas says.

"Whether it's one teacher, they have the opportunity to go to three or four places. If it's a large group, there are multiple spaces that can be used?

Minarik says the people who've used the space say it's calming and offers a

kirk Regional ng, Principal eiCont, Vice-Principal zimek, Vice-Principal teside, Acting

cipal 82-6926 nrollment: 1160 **Mapleton School** Dan Marshall, Principal Phone: 482-4409 (K-6) Enrollment: 155

Netley School Leonhard Hofer, Principal Phone: 738-4630 (K-12) Enrollment: 23

Robert Smith School Lisa Minaker, Principal Phone: 482-3677 (K-6) Enrollment: 175

Ruth Hooker School Lucille McGillivray, Principal Phone: 482-3614 (K-6) Enrollment: 115

St. Andrews School Harold Freiter, Principal Kristine Duke, Vice-Principal Phone: 334-6083 (K-6) Enrollment: 430

Ecole Selkirk Junior High Kris Friesen, Principal Terry Skarban, Vice-Principal Phone: 785-8514 **Dual Track English-French** (7-9) Enrollment: 380

Student Services Centre Trish Glass, Director Arlene Beresford, **Assistant Director** Phone: 785-8224

Walter Whyte School Gloria Juvenon, Principal Phone: 754-2240 (K-9) Enrollment: 100

William S. Patterson School Glen Jede, Principal Phone: 738-4700 (K-6) Enrollment: 130

Success comes from a re-START

START works with: RCMP, Community and Youth Corrections, Child and Family Services, **Addictions** of Manitoba, Interlake-Eastern Authority, Lord Selkirk Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities, City of Selkirk, RM of St. Clements, and RM of St. Andrews

Program brings everyone together to get kids back on track

ife is full of things that are black and white, but sometimes, it's when the lines are blurred and a grey area emerges, that real progress begins to happen.

You could say that's the secret behind the success of START, or Selkirk Team for At-Risk Teens.

Bruce Somers, a Community Resource Worker with the Lord Selkirk School Division and a member of START, said the beauty of the program is that it brings numerous agencies together with kids, their families and the school to find a way to get at-risk teens back on track and back in school.

It's the team working in collaboration on the same issue rather than working on it in isolation, that's key.

"That's what makes it so powerful. (The different agencies) were all caught by 'it's confidential, I can't tell you', or the biggest problem that got in the way was 'it's not our problem," Somers said.

"What would end up happening is we would have all these kids, and families, falling through the cracks. So (the old way) would be the black and white, we became the grey."

START came to be 13 years ago when, as LSSD's Student Services Director Trish Glass likes to say, some really smart people did the legwork to bring everyone, from the school division to the RCMP to Child and Family Services and beyond, together, for the kids' and their families' sakes.

"It goes back to the genius-people and all the legal work they did so that we can all speak to one another (around a student)," Glass said.

"If we have a student that has been referred to START, then I can speak very freely in front of the Health Authority or RCMP to say these are the issues and we're all going to work together as a team in order to support the student. So it's not about being punitive, it's about picking the kid up and helping the kid to become successful. We're all working on the same things. The results have been amazing."

Diane Steiner, Vice-Principal at Lockport School and Chairperson of START, said it's not that other agencies didn't care



about kids. However, their individual mandates often limited their freedom to improvise, a practice that has flour-ished in START.

"START has helped me to understand mandates and how agencies work so I find that I'm far less judgmental and far more understanding," she said.

Somers said members of each START team – which is different for every referral – look for different ways to solve a problem that no one has been able to solve in the past.

"Most of our thinking is outside-thebox. It's that kind of program where we can get real creative," he said.

"Creativity comes out when you don't have all the barriers."

Steiner said the program is, as the name implies, for kids who are at-risk. They're kids who are struggling, whether they're involved with criminal activity, drug use or anything else that's putting their education, and their future, at risk.

START is for people who simply have nowhere else to turn. Once a student is referred to the program, either by a teacher, a parent/guardian, a member of a social agency, or even another student, a screening committee determines if they qualify for START and then a team is assembled. The family and the teen are part of that team.

When the teen sits at the table with a person of authority who is there to help, it's transformative.

"When teens see that the team is working for them, it restores faith," Steiner said.

Somers agreed.

"They see them as helpers, not intruders in their family."

It's not just the kids that get that injection of faith, it's also their family members who might have thought they'd be judged and seen as failures for not being able to handle their own child.

"A barrier to a lot of the families is they're worried about how we're going to view them," Somers said.

"So a big part of it is that empowerment, and giving them the sense that they're not being judged." Steiner said when the process works, it often changes everyone's perspective. As an administrator in the division, she said at times she's been involved with the kids for years before they entered START. The time prior to their entrance into the program was a struggle for all involved, with disagreements and suspensions part of the norm.

But when they sit at the START table and begin the hard work of finding a solution, she said you get to see the whole story, and much like the kids who see authority figures in a different light, she sees the kids and parents in a different light too.

"For us, we see that these are not bad parents of bad kids. Once you start to learn their story and you understand where they're coming from, that flips your thinking and I like that change of perspective," she said.

START uses six different areas as indicators of success. In 2014, the program worked with 44 students and boasted huge numbers in all areas, including an 83% success rate in improved attendance/participation in school and an 88% success rate in students accessing services not previously utilized. The other categories are: created a successful safety plan (95%), attained a better knowledge of at-risk activities (100%), improved living situation (65%) and increased understanding of youth's challenges (85%).

Steiner said one of the best indicators of success is high school graduation day at the end of June, when students who've worked their way through START stand side by side with the rest of the graduating class to form a sea of blue in their caps and gowns.

She said she was present at last year's grad when several START students were handed their diplomas.

"You're like a proud parent yourself," Steiner smiled.

"And you know their parents are in that audience, some of them bring everybody in their family because they never thought the day would come."

Bruce Somers, left, and Diane Steiner are part of the team that makes START such a huge success.

Leading with support

Left to right, Thomas, Goosen, Lev and Minarik, are Lead Teachers in the LSSD.

Role of the Lead Teacher has changed over the years

The name 'Lead Teacher' implies a teacher who is leading others, but those with the title in the Lord Selkirk School Division would suggest that the name's a bit of a misnomer.

Yes, Lead Teachers at one time spent professional development (PD) days teaching other teachers, and to a lesser extent they still do some of that today, but the role has evolved and is now much more about support for teachers, administrators and students.

"I guess that was the role that used to be thought of as Lead Teachers, is that we would provide one-off PD sessions," says Lead Teacher Chris Minarik.

"Professional development and adult learning has changed through the years and we are more of a support, a role model, and we are guiding and helping teachers implement (toward) student success."

Lead Teacher Trish Goosen has a word to describe Lead Teachers in the division.

"If I had to sum up one word to describe us it would be 'synergistic," she said.

"We have such a collaborative synergy that we move learning forward, but I learn so much from my colleagues at our office that it has just been so powerful."

Goosen, Minarik, and fellow Lead Teachers Brandie Lev and Veronica Thomas each have their specialty areas. They work as a team, promoting best instructional practices and facilitating learning among adults.

Thomas says they have goals for both teachers and students.

"We do definitely work as a team. Ultimately, the goal is helping develop instructional excellence that promotes student success," Thomas says. "Those two things are reciprocal; you are an excellent teacher when there is evidence of student learning."



The Lead Teachers work out of the Professional Learning Centre (PLC) inside Daerwood School and the newly-created space was designed with a purpose. One of the things visitors to the PLC notice is the art installations of geese soaring over head.

The geese, and their recognizable V-shaped flight pattern, are representative of a cooperative model the Lead Teachers like to emulate.

"Like the geese, everyone takes a turn and our role is really more to strengthen, build up and support," Minarik explained.

"That is the model; we want to build everybody up to be leaders in their own schools and support each other. In 21st Century learning we need collaboration; it isn't one person who's the 'Sage on the stage'. We try to foster networks. I think our role is more fostering and supporting."

As warm and inviting as the PLC is, the Lead Teachers don't spend much time there. They go into classrooms and coteach to help support the other teachers in the division. Their role is more than just professional development, it's doing whatever it takes to move learning forward.

That means they work with more than just teachers.

"We're planning student success for all, so a huge part of our role is that it does need to be ongoing, professional learning, not just at the PLC but in classrooms for all of those people (administrators, staff, students) and ourselves. We see ourselves as lifelong learners, but what makes our team so strong is that, like with the geese, we have a shared vision, a shared goal that we're all travelling towards within the division, and that is ultimately student success,"Thomas says.

"But we do model what we're hoping to see students, teachers and administrators in the division do as well, which is collaborate, reflect and have a shared vision and



other divisions, and Lev says that experience is essential.

"You need the credibility and the experience," Lev says.

sense of direc-

All four have

experience as

teachers, both

in LSSD and

a wealth of

tion."

"You need to have learned and lived, otherwise who are we to say what teachers should do in their classroom?"

Lev's experience is with junior and senior high school, Goosen specializes in numeracy, Thomas in literacy and Minarik in assessment and technology.

All say they feel a close connection with the other teachers that they work with in the division.

"I do feel a camaraderie and I'm a part of the staff at Ecole Selkirk Junior High, the Comp and Lockport. Because we're out in our schools so much and working with the teachers and the kids, we are a part of all the schools too," Lev says.

They draw on not only their own experiences, but also the knowledge of others when they go into the classroom.

Goosen says she's been utilizing the expertise of Dr. Jennifer Lawson, an author and university instructor, with a series of sessions on problem-solving with numeracy. They've been doing the sessions for three years now, at different grade levels, and she says it's progressing very well.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a philosophy of inclusion, is a very important priority in the division. All four Lead Teachers incorporate UDL strategies into their work.

Lev says UDL is "designing for all" and that thought guides them in what they do.

"It looks different with every teacher but my goal is that I go in a lot of the times and work with the kids and work with the teacher to demonstrate best practice to make sure all kids are included," she says.

Thomas says UDL is the combination of social and academic learning.

"It's a balance of both, it's not just about academics. It's really about having everyone feel that they belong, that they matter and that they have a voice."

Think like a proton and stay positive!

Individual plan helps keep kids in classroom

True Inclusion Program working for kids with cognitive disabilities

f Theresa Futros has tears in her eyes, you know she's having a good day. The really neat thing about those tears is that they're the strongest indicator that one of her kids has had a good day too.

"All the time. Ask anybody who knows me, I cry all the time," laughed Futros, a Lord Selkirk School Division Teacher who heads up the True Inclusion Program, or TIP.

"That's what drives me. I wouldn't do this if I didn't love it."

Through TIP, Futros works with students who have significant cognitive disabilities, with a goal of having the student succeed at their own Individual Education Plan while remaining in the classroom.

TIP evolved out of the Functional Academic Curriculum for Exceptional Students (FACES) program, which also worked with students with cognitive disabilities, but removed them from the classroom. Futros said TIP is much more individualized to the student and focuses on what each student needs to be included meaningfully in their classroom, in their school and in their community.

"I work at all levels to create an environment that's as inclusive as possible and I provide students with the ability to develop the skills that they need to function well," Futros said.

"The supports that I provide are as individual as the kids."

Students are referred to TIP and a team that can include speech and language, occupational, and physio therapists as well as a psychologist, works together with the classroom teacher and other staff to support the student.

Futros provides academic, behavioural and community supports to the approximately 25 TIP kids she works with throughout the division.

There is no standard program model for students in TIP and Futros said she is as involved as the school needs her to be.

A TIP student's academic goals might be different from the other students in their classroom. Futros works with the family, teacher, resource teacher and educational assistant to develop the student's own Individual Education Plan.

"My supports are there for not just the kid, but for every adult that's around that kid."

Academic supports vary Futros said, and can be as simple as changing expectations or changing the way material is delivered. Futros can assist the classroom teacher with developing a plan that will work for the student, and in some cases, she goes into the classroom and co-teaches. Students' Individualized Education Plans might not be on the same curricular level as the rest of the class. That is when you need to be creative and find a way to keep the student involved in the classroom and meet his or her goals while the rest of the class still meets theirs, Futros explained.

"If you have a student that maybe has some social goals that they need to work on, then we can build those kinds of goals into, for example, a social studies environment. They would do an interview of their peers, instead of learning about World War Two, if that's not accessible for the student," Futros said.





TIP focuses on helping students with cognitive disabilities succeed in the classroom.

"But the student can still be very much a part of their classroom, interacting in terms of their community, which is their individual classroom." Though the student might not be learning the same things as the rest of the class, they're still accomplishing goals in their individual plan.

"It's still functional learning for them, and it's even academic learning for them, it's just not the curricular outcome."

Each student's progress is evaluated at the three regular reporting periods throughout the year, but Futros said evaluation is occurring almost "moment by moment".

"You always want to see that growth, that's always a priority for me, that we see forward movement," Futros said.

"It can be baby steps, I'm OK with that, but I need to see forward movement or we need to re-think what we're doing."

Academic success looks different for each student, but she said being able to work at their Individual Education Plans while in the classroom and developing relationships with fellow students is huge.

"When it comes to academics we've had kids who couldn't tolerate the classroom for a period of time who are able to function meaningfully within the context of the classroom for the entire day," she said.

Community access is also a big part of the TIP program and Futros said the goal is to have students interacting with their environment and beginning to understand it as a pleasure. Students go to various places in the community, such as the bowling alley, and participate in the sport, or the Gaynor Family Regional Library, and take part in programs there. She said seeing the students start to thrive in social situations is also a real win.

"Success for me is seeing that the kid who was reluctant to go into the bowling alley, actually functionally bowling a game. Or that kid who clung to his Educational Assistant in the swimming pool because he couldn't stand putting his feet on the bottom of the pool, walking," she said.

"You look at success differently, you re-frame it because it becomes so specific to that individual."

It's not just the TIP kids who benefit from inclusion. Futros said studies have shown that students with disabilities and typical kids both benefit.

"They benefit in terms of pro-social behaviours, because they're now going to be experiencing interacting with a person that has a very different perspective and experience of life from theirs. In order to interact with them, they have to think about someone else's well-being instead of only their own," she said.

"And it actually works in the reverse direction. Our students with Autism often struggle with those pro-social kinds of interactions, thinking about what somebody else needs and wants. It benefits them because their peers are modelling it." "It builds capacity in both populations."

If you think that the sky's the limit, then why are there footprints on the moon?